■ World / A8

Italian, Egyptian hostages freed in Iraq

■ News / A2

Erap defense puts Chavit's credibility on trial

■ Business / B1

HSBC projects P57 -to- $1 by year's end

■Sports / A21

La Salle, FEU dispute UAAP title

■ Entertainment / A28

Let us now thank, honor Ryan Cayabyab

Bataan newsman killed; seventh slain this year

PILAR, Bataan—A news correspondent of a tabloid was killed on his way home here by a lone gunman at dawn yesterday, police said.

Romeo Binungcal, 43, was riding on his motorcycle when he was shot four times in the head and the body, police said. He died on the spot.

Binungcal is the 56th journalist killed in the

BATAAN/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Band plays, sings different tune: It's cool to be a priest

CHRISTOPHER Habal's band tours Catholic high schools with the message that it's cool to join the priesthood.

The all-male group raps, sings and plays the latest pop songs, accom-

BAND PLAYS/ A15

YO! SALI NA,
MAG-PARI TAYO!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, September 30, 2004 ★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 295 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Amnesty for AFP rebs set

Bishops to monitor barangay 'dev't fun'

By Blanche S. Rivera

IS THE government disbursing billions of pesos to provide barangay officials with "development fun"?

Believing this is so, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is training its critical eye on corruption at the village level with IRA Watch, a campaign to monitor the disposition of the internal revenue allotment for barangays.

In a statement released yesterday, the CBCP National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (Nassa) said anticorruption watchdogs, in their "obsession to catch the big fish," had overlooked abuse of government funds by barangay officials.

The IRA for local government units eats up 40 percent of the national internal revenue collection from taxes. Of this, 23 percent goes to the provinces, 23 percent to cities, 34 percent to municipalities and 20 percent to barangays.

There are 41,974 barangays nationwide. Each of those with a population of not less than 100 gets at least P80,000 monthly as development fund—which translates to a total disbursement of P3.3 billion.

Nassa cited a Commission on Audit report showing that local governments, including barangays, routinely used these funds to pay for restaurant bills in hotels where officials hold meetings "in the guise of training."

BISHOPS/ A15

RORO YOUR BOAT

Paying no mind to the wind in her hair, the country's No. 1 drumbeater for tourism, President Macapagal-Arroyo goes on a roll off, roll on (roro) ride from Dumaguete to Samboan, Cebu, on Wednesday. Through binoculars, she views the entrancing pebble beach resorts in Santander, Cebu.

VAL HANDUMON

DOH opens door-to-door family planning drive

By Blanche S. Rivera

HELP is on the way for women who give birth every year against their better judgment and have more children than they want.

The Department of Health is taking its family planning campaign door to door—literally, with community health workers and volunteers turning up at the steps.

Early next year, the DOH will tap 500,000 of these workers to locate the target group of women, "married or cohabiting."

Of the P300 million that this drive will require, the department is shouldering P120 million. The rest, according to health officials, will come from local governments and private sector partners, including international funding agencies.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement: "We will go barangay to barangay, then house to house, to identify who among the neighborhood women have an unmet need for family planning, then gather them for a community-based discussion where they will be informed on the different methods on birth spacing, natural and artificial."

The campaign will be conducted from February to March 2005.

Dayrit's announcement of the intensified efforts comes in the wake of criticisms that the government was abdicating its role in population management, specifically in distributing contraceptives.

DOH/ A15

GMA: Study case of Oakwood mutineers

By Alcuin Papa

FIVE days after six leaders of the Magdalo group publicly apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Malacañang is preparing to study the possible grant of amnesty to the mutineers.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz yesterday told reporters that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had called a meeting of defense and military officials today in Malacañang, "to discuss and study the mechanisms for the amnesty because this may need the concurrence of Congress."

Cruz said the position of the government was to study the matter but that he wanted to first examine the terms of the amnesty. "And this will have to pass through Congress first," he said.

He also said that on President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions, he had directed the Armed Forces to "expedite" the court-martial proceedings, "in order that on the basis of the evidence, circumstances and participation of the various enlisted personnel, they can be given leniency in the sense that they will be reinstated in accordance with the rules."

Agence France Presse quoted Cruz as saying that he would also meet with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez today to study the possible pardon of the Magdalo leaders.

On March 16, lawyers of the soldiers who mounted the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier serviced

AMNESTY/ A18

WINSTON GARCIA: Deeply touched by the President's continuing support.

Palace: GSIS chief won't go on leave even with graft raps

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Christine O. Avendaño

WINSTON Garcia, under siege for alleged mismanagement of state pension funds, is not required to take a leave from his post despite graft charges filed against him with the Office of the Ombudsman, Malacañang said yesterday.

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the only advice of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the beleaguered president and general manager of the Government Service and Insurance System is "to explain to the public his side on the controversies hounding him and not to expect any assistance from other agencies."

Malacañang, however, "respects" the opinion of some sectors for Garcia to take a vacation to ease the pressure off the GSIS, Bunye

PALACE/ A18

Diesel price expected to soar until December

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRICE of diesel, which is used by public buses and jeepneys, is expected to soar in the coming months due to tight supply and rising demand worldwide, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

"All the way to December, we're looking at a high price (for diesel). It will not go down," Energy Undersecretary Cyril Delcallar said at a briefing in Malacañang.

He reported that diesel prices had shot up to $57.33 per barrel on the Singapore market on Sept. 28 after starting the month at $49.96 per barrel.

In a phone interview, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said that while higher diesel prices were inevitable, "this should be no excuse for oil companies to jack up their prices unreasonably."

"We want to make sure that oil companies temper their price increases by making them in small increments," Perez said.

A $1 increase in the cost of a barrel of diesel translates to a 40-centavo per liter hike in its local pump price, according to Delcallar.

Thus, if the price of diesel holds at $57 per barrel for the rest of the year, local diesel prices could go up by at least P1.20 per liter to P22.72 from the current P21.52 per liter (based on the average price $54 per barrel).

Delcallar, however, said that these were merely rules of thumb and would be useless if oil companies were marking up their products excessively.

Oil companies have so far "reflected reasonable pump pricing," he said.

DIESEL/ A18

ECONOMY
ISUZU

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

WERE that it were as easy as a driving up to the Pandacan oil depot to pump up the economy as local oil prices continue to reflect crude oil increases in global market.

Tabara allies vow to destroy Red 'fanatics'

By Fe Zamora,
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra

COMRADES of slain leftist leader Arturo Tabara yesterday vowed to destroy the "fanatics" in the communist ranks whom they blamed for the killing of Tabara and Stephen Ong on Sunday.

"We are being pushed against the wall. We will have to defend ourselves," said Nilo de la Cruz, who replaces Tabara as chair of the communist breakaway group Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P).

The destruction of the fanatics will be "done in a manner that is calculated, decisive and indubitably understood," the RPM-P said in a statement distributed at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City where Tabara's body lay in wake.

The RPM-P also blamed the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), for the killing of Tabara and Daniel Batoy, a senior RPM-P leader who was gunned down in Aklan last month.

"We make it unequivocally clear: we lay the bloody and violent conflict that has now swept the left squarely at the door of the CPP-NPA," the statement said.

"The killing of Tabara and Batoy is a signal. It bares the madness and will to power that have consumed the CPP-NPA leadership. It unmasks the CPP-NPA as executioners of their comrades, oppressors of the people, and traitors of the revolution," it said.

De la Cruz, however, said that the

TABARA/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004
Second FrontPage
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/30/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

ERAP PLUNDER CASE

Chavit credibility goes on trial

A DEFENSE attempt to assail the credibility of the star witness in the plunder case against ousted President Estrada was somewhat blunted yesterday after state prosecutors succeeded in making a defense expert witness admit that incurring "unliquidated cash advances" does not necessarily constitute "misappropriation of funds" under government audit rules.

Estrada's defense lawyers last week had presented a Commission on Audit report showing that Luis "Chavit" Singson had "unsettled cash advances" of P2.9 million as of Dec. 31, 1995.

Singson, the former governor of Ilocos Sur and longtime close friend and associate of Estrada, is the government's main witness against Estrada who is accused of taking illegal gambling bribes and stealing government funds.

But in a cross-examination lasting less than 10 minutes, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio got provincial auditor Agaton Dacayanan, who headed the COA team that did the audit report, to agree that incurring unliquidated cash advances was not irregular in itself.

Villa-Ignacio also brought out the fact that Dacayanan himself had unliquidated cash advances of P30,000 at one time and got the witness to affirm that this was not irregular.

Dacayanan also said that the annual report that he had submitted and which defense lawyers had presented as evidence were mere photocopies of the original COA report.

During a break in a hearing last week, Estrada's lead counsel Rene Saguisag said in an interview that Singson had amassed P800 million in unliquidated cash advances from 1995 to 1999.

He alleged that the reason why Singson had decided to turn against Estrada was so he could escape the pressure from COA auditor Agustin Chan concerning his unliquidated cash advances. Chan was killed in an ambush in 2001.

Singson denied the P800 million figure cited by Saguisag. He admitted to having unsettled cash advances but he said he had settled the matter and was cleared by COA.

Interviewed after the hearing yesterday, Villa-Ignacio said that if the cash advances had been irregular or had remained unresolved, the COA would have recommended the filing of graft charges against Singson and the other officials involved.

"But there was nothing in the report saying that they should be prosecuted or charged with graft. They [COA officials] should have initiated such a move but they did not, so there's no case," he said.

Defense lawyers yesterday also directed the court's attention to the portion of the COA report showing that Singson had allegedly used Ilocos Sur's share of the tobacco excise taxes to pay for his "nocturnal activities" while he was governor.

Reading from the COA report, defense lawyer Raymond Fortun said there were vouchers showing that on two occasions, the provincial government had spent P175,000 and P89,000 for "karaoke." *Armand N. Nocum*

Drug stores reeling under seniors' discount

By Volt Contreras

CITING shrinking bottomlines, majority of drugstores nationwide have aired their reluctance to grant elderly costumers a 20-percent discount under the newly passed Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman disclosed yesterday.

She said the Drugstore Owners Association of the Philippines had met with her twice regarding its fears that many small- and medium-sized outlets would close shop if forced to grant as much relief to the country's 5.2 million senior citizens.

The group's worry, she said, stemmed from the removal of the "income cap" for senior citizens who could enjoy the price cut. Under the law's earlier version passed in 1996, only citizens aged 60 years and above and with annual earnings of less than P60,000 are entitled to such benefits.

Under the new law, citizens in their 60s regardless of income —"both rich and poor"—can now get a discount, Soliman noted.

"I understand where they (drugstore owners) are coming from," she told reporters in a press conference in Quezon City. She said the business group, whose members include the giant Mercury Drug chain, is also seeking a dialog with the health, finance, and trade departments.

She welcomed such meetings, saying "we need to find a way for the realistic implementation of the law."

Soliman estimated that, based on complaints reaching her agency, up to "75 to 80 percent" of all small- and medium-sized drug stores nationwide might not comply with the law, which President Arroyo signed on Feb. 26.

Also known as Republic Act 9257, the measure is set for implementation starting Oct. 5 following the publication of its IRR (implementing rules and regulation) last week.

In her initial meetings with the drugstore owners, she recalled, they made counterproposals limiting the scope of 20-percent discount only to generic drugs or granting "tax deductions" to outlets that would extend such perks to the old.

'My father didn't join NPA'

Daughter of captured Marine insists her dad is loyal to AFP

By Alcuin Papa

THE DAUGHTER of a Marine sergeant abducted three years ago by the New People's Army in Sultan Kudarat refuses to believe that her father has joined the communist rebels as claimed by the military.

Rosemarie Rosete, 18, told the INQUIRER that her father, Sgt. Jeremias Rosete, of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) is loyal to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"I know my father and I have seen how devoted and dedicated he was to his work. I don't believe he has joined the NPA. I don't think he can be brainwashed. If he did something like this, it was against his will," she said in a phone interview.

Rosemarie was "angry and irritated with the AFP" for dismissing her father from their ranks and accusing him of joining the communist rebels.

"He (Sgt. Rosete) has been in captivity for three years now. Where the (NPA) goes, he goes. You can't avoid such speculations," she said in Filipino.

Rosemarie added that she and her family had not been informed about the recommendation for dismissal of Sgt. Rosete.

ROSETE: 'He cannot be brainwashed.'

In a resolution dated Sept. 9, 2004, the Isafp recommended the discharge of Sgt. Rosete based on "proof and evidence" that he had already joined the NPA.

The military said Rosete was seen on Aug. 20 with a certain "Commander Al" and "Commander Bobo" in an NPA camp in Sitio Gosmolo, Barangay Datablao, Sultan Kudarat. Rosete was allegedly being used as a trainer for rebel recruits and that he had adopted the alias "Boknoy" in the underground movement.

The recommendation for Rosete's discharge had yet to be approved by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

Rosemarie said the military was "washing its hands" of what happened to her father.

She revealed that her family was set to appear before media to make another appeal to the NPA for the release of Sgt. Rosete.

Rosete was abducted by the NPA's Valentin Palamine Command in Sept. 2001 in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

His pay and allowances had been withheld since his capture. His daughter's scholarship had also been terminated.

Military information chief Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said that if Rosete's recommendation for dismissal were approved, only his basic and long pay until August 2004 would be given.

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Abad: No apologies for textbook errors

By Dona Pazzibugan

RATHER than apologize, Education Secretary Florencio Abad told a private school executive who claimed to have found many errors in a DepEd-approved history textbook to prove that he deserves an apology from education officials.

The DepEd on Monday agreed to review and correct the 431 errors that Antonio Calipjo Go reportedly found in a 316-page high school history textbook, "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" published by SD Publications.

Go, an academic supervisor of the Marian School who disclosed his findings in a newspaper ad last week, has refused to sit down with the DepEd to make the corrections unless its officials apologize first for accusing him of being only after money.

Abad, however, believes he has nothing to apologize for as he did not say anything that maligned Go.

Nor were education officials guilty of imputing malicious intent on Go's part as "it was premature to make a conclusion at the time," the education secretary said.

Abad said Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, who is in charge of curriculum, has contacted the textbook's authors as well as "independent experts" so they could go over the errors.

"It would be best that we sit down and go through the process of looking over this. Let's not set conditions in the interest of truth," Abad said, adding that it would be unfortunate if Go does not consent to help.

"I don't think this issue (of an apology first) is an insurmountable obstacle to keep us from going over the truth and him proving his point," he said.

Abad, who had earlier defended the textbook's integrity, acknowledged on Monday that the "Asya" textbook had at least one "major mistake" and invited Go to help DepEd officials conduct a review of the textbook.

But Go resented Abad's and Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz's reported claim that he wanted to be paid by the book's publisher for his 82-page list of errors and demanded an apology before he hands over his list of corrections.

Abad said the controversy has generated much interest from educators who want to give their own inputs and views of the textbook.

But even if found to be erroneous, the textbook will still be used in the current school year 2004 to 2005 and the next, 2005 to 2006.

Abad said recalling all the 1.14 million copies would be impractical as the DepEd would be replacing all history textbooks in all grade and year levels in October 2005 anyway.

The department will instead issue "teaching notes" advising the teachers about the errors and the corrections in the book.

Group wants Bong ousted from Senate for TV stints

By Christine O. Avendaño

APPARENTLY not everyone is a fan of the TV show "Idol ko si Kap."

A party-list group yesterday asked the Senate to expel Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. for continuing to appear in his weekly television show "Idol ko si Kap."

In a complaint filed before the office of Senate President Franklin Drilon, the group calling itself the "Abakada Guro" argued that Revilla "cannot be part-senator and part-comedian" at the same time.

This is a violation of ethical standards for people in public office, the group said in a four-page letter filed yesterday. "Being a senator of the Philippines is a full-time job."

In a news conference, Revilla said he did not violate any law.

"There is no such rule which prohibits me from practicing my profession," the neophyte senator told reporters, adding that rules governing the conduct of the legislature was "promulgated exclusively and independently by Congress for its members."

The Constitution, he said, was clear when it set prohibitions on members of the Senate and House. These are: lawmakers are barred from holding any position in government, appear in court as counsel before any court of justice or before the electoral tribunals, quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies, as well as have any business interest in any congressional franchise.

"I did not violate any of these," Revilla told reporters, adding that he earned money legally and did not steal money from the government.

Ombudsman wants to seize DPWH exec's unexplained wealth

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo has filed before the Sandiganbayan a forfeiture case against former public works regional director Romeo Panganiban in a bid to recover a sizable portion of the P81.7 million he allegedly accumulated while in office.

He was charged with wife Fe, daughter Geraldine and sisters Elsa P. de Luna and Purita Sarmiento who reportedly functioned as "conduits" in hiding Panganiban's assets.

"This is the first among many forfeiture cases to be filed against officials who failed the lifestyle check program of the government," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

Last year, the Ombudsman filed graft charges against Panganiban and his relatives for allegedly accumulating an estimated P81.7 million in ill-gotten wealth during his 37 years in service.

Panganiban was also the first official to be charged in the Sandiganbayan for failing the lifestyle check put in place by the government last year. The public works regional director was suspended for six months in 2003 for this.

Panganiban, whose annual salary was only P307,116, had declared a net worth of P13.2 million in 2001, but graft investigators later found that his acquired real and personal properties were worth P81.7 million, many of which had been placed in the name of his immediate relatives.

Among his undeclared properties were a three-bedroom house in Los Angeles, California, worth P15 million; a residential house in Los Baños, Laguna, worth P2 million; a residential house in Ayala, Alabang, worth P24.8 million; and a residential lot in Laguna worth P146,000.

The properties he had allegedly omitted from his 2001 statement of assets and liabilities amounted to P73.2 million.

The Ombudsman noted that the public works official's SAL had grown to P14.1 million in 2001 from P455,000 in 1986. His accumulated salary in 15 years of service stood at P2.5 million.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Panganiban on his mobile phone.

Since he failed the government's lifestyle check program early last year, he has refused to give interviews to the press. He retired shortly thereafter.

Three years ago, Panganiban was reported to have been kidnapped and allegedly paid between P30 million and P50 million in ransom money to his captors. He was also criticized in the press for allegedly spending more than P30 million to refurbish the ancestral house of the Estradas in Laguna.

Ramos blames 'ports war' for Smokey Mountain row

RAMOS

THE CURRENT controversy over the Smokey Mountain could be just a "smokescreen" for the brewing war among commercial interests in the port of Manila, former President Fidel Ramos hinted yesterday.

Ramos said he found it odd Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's privileged speech assailing the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP) was followed by media reports attacking the Harbor Center Port Terminal Inc. (HCPTI), which sits on the 790-hectare reclaimed site of Smokey Mountain.

Businessman Reghis Romero II, who chairs HCPTI, also owns R-II Builders Inc., the private developer of Smokey Mountain.

In his appearance before the Senate last week and the press conference before he left for China recently, Ramos insinuated that the Smokey Mountain controversy was precipitated by rivalry among port operators in Manila. The former president said he could not see why Santiago would resurrect an old issue like the Smokey Mountain after two congressional inquiries had cleared the project and declared it as valid and legal.

'Legal, aboveboard'

The Senate committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement and the committee on social justice, welfare and development investigated the Smokey Mountain project in 1996 and found nothing wrong with it. Four years later, the House committee on good government also looked into the project and concluded that it was legal and aboveboard, Ramos said in a press statement yesterday.

"All relevant questions and issues about the project have already been raised, scrutinized and fully addressed," Ramos said.

Ramos suggested that the proper authorities conduct a "deeper investigation" into this brewing "port war" among port operators in Manila to determine for certain whether this is the real issue behind the Smokey Mountain project.

Barely six months into its operation, the Harbor Center Port Terminal in Tondo was able to acquire the bulk of non-containerized cargo handling operations at the Port of Manila, threatening to break the long-held monopoly of industry giants International Container Services Inc. (ICTSI) and Asian Terminal Inc. (ATI) in the business, according to the Ramos press release.

In January, HCPTI started offering non-containerized cargo handling services. Records show that by June, HCPTI was able to grab all of the non-containerized cargo volume handled by ATI in 2003 and a third of the non-containerized cargo volume previously controlled by ICTSI by providing better access, faster turnaround time, modern and efficient facilities and more competitive rates to its clients, it added.

Pending application

HCPTI has a pending application before the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) since 2002 for an unrestricted port license, which will allow it to enter the P10 billion containerized cargo market presently dominated by ICTSI and ATI.

At last week's hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee and the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises on the Smokey Mountain project, Ramos suggested that these clashing business interests team up, instead of feuding, to form a consortium and undertake the modernization of North Harbor and the coastal areas of cities and towns like Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

"My humble suggestion is to have all such business rivals and interested parties team together in a consortium and jointly undertake, by way of reclamation, the upgrading and modernization, as the government may authorize in joint venture agreement, of the North Harbor and the coastal areas of such cities as Caloocan, Navotas and Valenzuela, where residents need new living areas and safety structures due to perennial flooding of their foreshores," Ramos said.

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Corrections

IN THE BUSINESS section of the Sept. 27 issue, a caption on Page B8 mistakenly identified the man on the left side of the photo as Shoichiro Toyoda, honorary chair of Toyota Motor Corp. of Japan. He is ADB president Tadao Chino.

* * *

IN THE BUSINESS section of the Sept. 19 issue, a Sunday Biz story on Page B1—"Tupperware parties turned him into a finance whiz"—misquoted Jaime Bautista as saying that he studied at the Lyceum of the Philippines. Bautista graduated magna cum laude from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in 1977 with a BS Commerce degree, major in Accounting.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 28 issue, a sidebar on Page A6—"Slain breakaway rebels"—misstated the first name of a member of Akbayan and "kahanay" of Pandayan para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas, who was killed on May 27, 2003 in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. The correct name is Florante—not Florente—Ocmen. According to Pandayan, Ocmen was never a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Tabara 'a peacemaker,' says Dinky

By Volt Contreras and Carlito Pablo

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman hailed slain leftist leader Arturo Tabara as a "peacemaker" and a "nation builder" who not only helped end his group's armed conflict with the government but also worked with her agency to address the needs of the poor.

The Sept. 26 killing was a "selfish act by those who refuse to take the path toward genuine reconciliation, peace, and development," said Soliman, who gave the highest praise Tabara has so far received from a member of the Arroyo administration.

In a statement issued yesterday, Soliman honored the murder victim in her capacity as chair of the Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee that was formed following the government's peace agreement with the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas(RPMP), the Revolutionary Proletarian Army and the Alex Boncayao Brigade in December 2000.

Tabara then sat as co-chair of the JEMC's National Technical Working Group on the cessation of hostilities.

"The solution to conflict was painstakingly began and the noble choice was made by Mr. Tabara and the several killed before him," Soliman said.

"It is unfortunate that this crime happened at a time when the JEMC and its partners have been actively delivering the social services to those in need, thereby responding to the people's legitimate grievances," she added.

"I enjoin all peace loving citizens to stand up against such heinous act. These crimes have taken the lives of well-meaning citizens who were not only nation builders, but fathers, husbands, sons and daughters to those who love them."

In an interview with the Inquirer, Soliman said she last met with Tabara three weeks ago when he checked on the progress of the poverty alleviation projects being pursued by the social welfare department in 12 barangays in the Negros and Panay island provinces.

The 12 villages were specially selected for the programs by the RPA Foundation, an organization under Tabara's leftist faction, she said. The projects were meant to deliver water supply, livelihood training, health services, and assistance to senior citizens.

Tabara of late had also been discussing with her the possible steps to be taken by the JEMC toward the "disposition of (rebel) forces," she recalled.

Tabara was up to a certain point recognized as a good revolutionary, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said yesterday.

Ocampo acknowledged that Tabara had been a colleague several years ago in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Philippines (CPP).

"He (Tabara) rose from the ranks. He headed the CPP Visayas Committee for some time. Yes, he was recognized," Ocampo said in a phone interview.

Asked if Tabara should be remembered by the Filipino people as a patriot, Ocampo declined comment, saying he doesn't want to talk in such terms.

Putting Tabara's career in perspective, Ocampo said that Tabara was involved in the ideological debate that split the CPP in the 1990s.

Tabara set up his own breakaway group that allied itself with the breakaway faction of Filemon Lagman, although there was a "falling out" later between the two, Ocampo said.

Ocampo noted that the Tabara group, known as the RPMP and its armed wing, the RPA, later entered into a peace agreement with the Estrada administration.

As Ocampo put it, the agreement involved "collaboration (by the Tabara group with the Philippine National Police) in the government's peace and order campaign."

Ocampo said that since Tabara left the mainstream communist movement and started collaborating with government, his relations with the mainstream communist movement turned bad.

Ocampo did not make a judgment of Tabara's activities and of Tabara's person after he left the mainstream movement.

Like Tabara who was felled by assassins' bullets on Sept. 26, Lagman met a violent death in January 2001.

Ocampo, for his part, has been identified with the mainstream communist movement although he clarified that he wasn't involved in the debate that divided the movement.

Ocampo said that in August or September, he chatted with Tabara when they found themselves on the same flight from Manila to Dumaguete. "He approached me first. I asked about his family," Ocampo said.

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Tabara allies vow to destroy Red 'fanatics'

From page A1

RPM-P was not declaring war on the CPP-NPA. "Given the situation, we have no choice but to defend ourselves," he told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Own investigation

De la Cruz confirmed that the RPM-P was conducting its own investigation of the double murder.

Tabara and Ong, boyfriend of Tabara's daughter, were gunned Sunday night at the parking lot of SM Fairview, apparently by hit men of the NPA. Initial police reports linked the NPA to the killing.

Citing evidence at hand, a senior police officer said Tabara was killed by the same group of highly trained assassins—including a woman—who gunned down former NPA chief Romulo "Ka Rolly" Kintanar in January last year.

Like Tabara, Kintanar left the mainstream communist rebel movement in 1992 over ideological differences.

No confirmation

Three days after the killing, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said he still could not confirm whether the NPA was behind it.

"Besides, what I initially declared that the NPA could be behind the job was only my instant reaction to the killing since an NPA team had long been looking for Tabara," he said in a cell phone interview.

Asked about the possibility that the NPA was not responsible for the Tabara slay, Rosal replied: "Just wait for our statement on the matter. It's not that easy to issue a statement and claim responsibility for the killing, especially when a big personality was involved."

He noted that the CPP-NPA claimed responsibility for the assassination of Kintanar three days after.

Rosal explained that after every "operation," all members of the NPA special team immediately retreat to the guerrilla base in the countryside.

"They can't just text or phone the result of the operation. There are security measures that we have to seriously consider," he said.

Prime suspects

Citing reports from the intelligence community, Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, Task Force Tabara chief, said members of the special operations group (SOG) of the CPP military staff remained the prime suspects in the killing of both Tabara and Kintanar.

The CPP military staff is headed by Leo Velasco while the SOG is led by Prudencio Calubid, a member of the CPP Central Committee.

Mendoza, a police officer with extensive background on the communist insurgency, said investigators were looking at about 20 CPP members involved in the Tabara assassination.

"There's a separate group involved in the planning, another in the intelligence buildup, and still another one that staged the actual hit," he said. He explained that the intelligence and hit squad each had about 10 members.

Equally important in solving the case is the arrest of those who had masterminded the murder, he said.

"We are not limiting our investigation to the actual perpetrators," Mendoza said. "This is a comprehensive investigation that will also go after the mastermind."

Identities

The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) has identified the two assailants in the killing of Tabara. The RPMP is the political wing of the RPA-ABB.

RPA-ABB national commander Carapali Lualhati said the assailants were believed to be members of the NPA special operations unit. The two assailants, he said, had the same profile as the gunmen who shot Kintanar at a restaurant in the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on Jan. 23, 2003.

Lualhati said the identity of the suspects was relayed to him by sources within the rejectionist movement whose members broke away from the CPP. But the information, he added, was still being verified.

Once confirmed, Lualhati said his group would follow the legal process and coordinate with the Philippine National Police.

"We will see to the filing of cases against the assailants so we can arrest them in coordination with the PNP when warrants of arrest are issued," he told the Inquirer.

"We will exhaust all legal means, but if they fight back when they are arrested, we will have no choice but to retaliate," Carapali said.

Vigil

In Bacolod City, a peace vigil was held Tuesday at the Fountain of Justice by members of Alab Katipunan (AK) who demanded justice for Tabara's killing.

AK chair Ben Solilapsi said his group would continue the vigil, not only for Tabara but also for the other victims of atrocities by the CPP all over the country.

He said AK would stage a fast on Oct. 4 and hold a peace rally and a caravan to Dumaguete when the remains of Tabara are brought there.

On Tuesday, the body of Ong was brought to Dumaguete City for funeral, which is scheduled for Sunday, Tabara's sister-in-law, Dr. Evangeline Aguilan, said yesterday. Aguilan said Ong's remains lay at Eternal Homes. ***With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

SC DECISION

Leave barangays alone, DILG told

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME COURT has ruled that the Department of Interior and Local Government cannot take over the National League of Barangays, saying that this would endanger local autonomy.

In a 37-page decision dated Sept. 27, the tribunal reversed an Aug. 1997 decision of the Caloocan Regional Trial Court which allowed the DILG to temporarily take control of the league after it was hit by internal squabbles over the election of its officers.

The high court also declared as unconstitutional two DILG circulars which effectively deposed Alex David, the league's president in 1997, and set supplemental guidelines for the league's synchronized election of officers in that same year.

"These acts of the DILG went beyond the sphere of general supervision and .constituted direct interference with the political affairs, .not only for the Liga (the league), but more importantly, of the barangay as an institution," said the decision penned by Justice Dante Tinga.

"The mantle of local autonomy would be eviscerated and remain an empty buzzword if unconstitutional, illegal and unwarranted intrusions in the affairs of the local governments are tolerated and left unchecked," he added.

The league is the organization of all barangays and holds the power to determine its representatives to the municipal, city, or provincial councils.

While the league is primarily governed by the Local Government Code, it is empowered to make its own constitution and bylaws, including its own election rules, the high court said.

"The election of Liga officers is part of the Liga's internal organization, for which the latter has already provided guidelines... Clearly, what the DILG wielded was the power of control which even the President does not have," the tribunal said.

"As the entity exercising supervision over the (league), the DILG's authority over the Liga is limited to seeing to it that the rules are followed, but it cannot lay down such rules itself, nor does it have the discretion to modify them," it added.

The court said that if there were violations of the league's election rules, it should have ordered the group to conduct another election, "in accordance with the Liga's own rules, but not in obeisance to DILG-dictated guidelines."

"Neither had the DILG the authority to remove the incumbent officers of the Liga and replace them, even temporarily, with unelected Liga officers," the tribunal said.

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UK renews advisory on travel to RP

THE BRITISH government has warned its citizens they face the risk of "indiscriminate terrorist attacks" while traveling around the Philippines even as it said that Westerners were targeted in the recent terrorist attack in Indonesia.

Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) reiterated its advice against travel to central, southern and western Mindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and the Sulu archipelago, where operations against terrorist and rebel groups were ongoing and where kidnappings and bombings have taken place.

It said there was a "high threat" from terrorism and kidnapping throughout the Philippines, and advised UK citizens to take particular care in the rest of Mindanao, Manila, Palawan and at coastal resorts and tourist centers throughout the country.

"There continues to be threats against Western interests and there is a danger of collateral damage from terrorist attacks targeted at others," the FCO said, adding that public transport in the Philippines was risky, whether by road, rail, sea or air.

"You should also be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks, which could be against civilian targets in public places, including those frequented by foreigners," the advisory said.

The FCO recalled that Westerners were "deliberately targeted" in terrorist attacks in Jakarta this month and in August last year, and in the island resort of Bali in October 2002.

The FCO said, however, that Philippine authorities were taking steps to neutralize the terrorist threat, and had tightened security in the metropolis and other areas considered at "high risk," including airports and seaports.

UK citizens traveling in the Philippines were also advised to steer clear of animal markets and poultry farms to avoid catching avian influenza or bird flu.

The FCO noted the recent renewed outbreaks of avian influenza among poultry in Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, China and Cambodia.

"Travelers to the Philippines are not likely to be affected, but you should avoid live animal markets and poultry farms and places where you may come into contact with live poultry," the FCO said. *TJ Burgonio*

Mike A asks Customs to nab name-droppers

AFTER President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Bureau of Customs to draft a short list of the big-time smugglers in the country, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo asked the authorities to arrest traders using his name to fast-track the release of their illicit shipments.

In a statement, Arroyo said he had instructed his lawyer to inform newly appointed Customs Commissioner George Jereos "that nobody is authorized to use my name in any transaction in the bureau."

"Specially illegal transactions," said Arroyo, who had been implicated in the smuggling of rice, sugar, vegetables, vehicles, alcohol and dangerous drugs—which the President had tagged as the most smuggled items into the country.

Arroyo said he "does not meddle and does not intend to meddle in governance."

Arroyo recalled that he had made the same appeal against name-droppers at the BOC and National Food Authority as early as two years ago. But rumors of his involvement in smuggling continued to persist.

Asked what President Arroyo would do if her husband was found to be involved in smuggling, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said this was "far-fetched." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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The Wisdom of Ayurveda

Ayurveda is the traditional Indian medical system of healing that uses a holistic approach in the treatment of various diseases including diabetes. Derived from the Sanskrit words *Ayus* meaning life and *Veda* or knowledge, this healing method cares not just for the body but the senses, mind, and soul as well. Modern medicine has its roots in *Ayurveda*, thanks to the exchange of knowledge between Indian and Western physicians in the 16th century. This therapeutic practice identified *Madhumeha*, the Sanskrit word for diabetes mellitus, during the 5th century. By then, *Ayurveda* had already developed natural treatments for this chronic disease. In fact, the herbal formula for Cogent db+ was discovered among other *Ayurvedic* texts, written on a centuries-old palm leaf manuscript.

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When the original 3000-year old *Ayurveda* treatment written on an ancient palm leaf scroll was discovered, Cybele Herbal Laboratories Ltd. in India conducted initial clinical trials and certified its potency and efficacy. For 11 years, Cogent db+ has been thoroughly tested for its effectiveness and safety. After undergoing clinical evaluation at various medical institutions in India, Malaysia, China, Australia, Russia, and Sudan, the scientific findings have been published in several respected journals.

To summarize the publication from the United States Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine 2002; 8(4): 445-457: "People with type 2 diabetes may gain better control of their diabetes by taking Cogent db+ in addition to their oral diabetes medication". In this study, it was found that diabetic patients who took Cogent db+ had significantly lower fasting blood glucose, post-meal blood glucose, glycated hemoglobin and insulin levels. All scientific publications on Cogent db+ are available in the IBIDS database of the National Institute of Health, Office of the Dietary Supplements in the USA. The manufacturing plant of Cybele Herbal Laboratories has an approval rating from the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia and the GMP certificate from the Government of India. Cybele strictly follows the HACCP standards of the World Health Organization, a true sign of the product's reliability.

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You can now gain better control of your diabetes by taking Cogent db+ in addition to your oral diabetes medication. By taking two tablets twice a day after food, you can experience the holistic healing provided by Cogent db+. This herbal preparation comes in tablet form, in blister packs of 30 (3x10) per box, and is now available at all Mercury Drug outlets.

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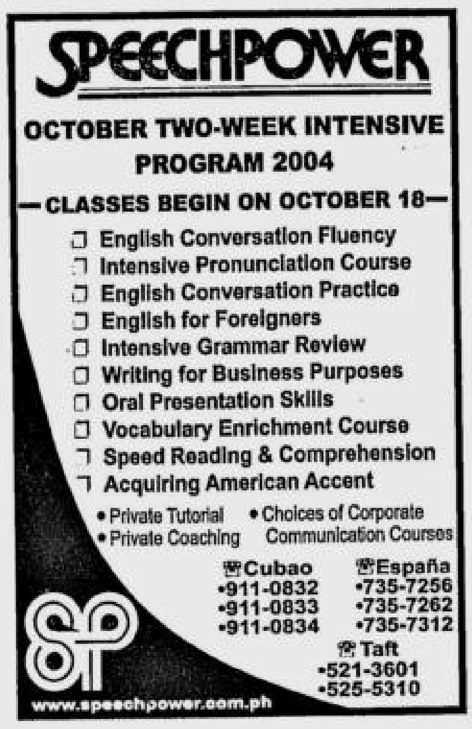

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FVR to grace PWCTU 75th anniversary

THE PHILIPPINE Woman's Christian Temperance Union is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a thanksgiving service and dinner-dance on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Manila Hotel.

The theme of the celebration is "75 Years of Dedicated Service to the Nation," according to Villa Granada de Guia, PWCTU national president.

The guest of honor and keynote speaker will be former President Fidel V. Ramos. Rev. Ruth Panganiban Villena of Ellinwood UCCP will deliver the inspirational message.

Entertainment will be provided by the PCU Kalinangan Dance Group, Tambourine Dance, the Parañaque IEMELIF Chancel Group and violinist Merjohn Lagaya accompanied by Naldy Rodriguez.

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RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand four.

SECTION 1. *Power to Conduct Inquiries.* – Pursuant to Section 21, Article VI of the Constitution, the House of Representatives, or any of its committees, may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with these rules.

The filing or pendency of a case before any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial or administrative body shall not stop or abate any inquiry conducted to carry out a legislative purpose.

SEC. 2. *Initiation and/or Conduct of Inquiry.* – Inquiries may be initiated and/or conducted by a committee subject to the following conditions:

(a) *motu proprio* on any matter within its jurisdiction upon a majority vote of all its Members; or

(b) upon order of the House of Representatives through:

(b1) the referral of a privilege speech containing or conveying a request or demand for the conduct of an inquiry, to the appropriate committee through a motion of the Majority Leader or his deputies; or

(b2) the adoption of a resolution directing a committee to conduct an inquiry reported out by the Committee on Rules after making a determination on the necessity and propriety of the conduct of an inquiry by such committee: *Provided,* That all resolutions directing any committee to conduct an inquiry shall be referred to the Committee on Rules; or

(b3) the referral by the Committee on Rules to the appropriate committee of a petition filed or information given by any person not a Member of the House requesting such inquiry after making a determination on the necessity and propriety of the conduct of an inquiry: *Provided,* That such petition or information is endorsed by the Speaker and is given under oath, stating the facts upon which it is based, and accompanied by supporting documents.

The committee to which a privilege speech, resolution, petition or information requesting an inquiry is referred may constitute and appoint subcommittees composed of at least nine committee Members for the purpose of performing any and all acts which the committee as a whole is authorized to perform except to punish for contempt: *Provided,* That where the privilege speech, resolution, petition or information is referred to two or more committees, a joint inquiry by the said committees shall be conducted.

The findings and recommendations of the subcommittees shall be submitted for approval and such other appropriate action(s) thereon by the mother committee: *Provided,* That such findings and/or recommendations including summary statements thereon or publications related thereto shall not be released by any Member of the subcommittee and/or the secretariat staff prior to the inclusion of the final committee report in the Calendar of Business as provided in Section 13 hereof.

SEC. 3. *Executive Meeting of the Committee.* – If the committee or subcommittee deems that the examination of a witness in a public hearing may endanger national security, it shall conduct the examination in an executive session, and shall make a determination on the necessity or propriety of conducting further examinations of such witness in a public hearing.

Attendance in executive sessions shall be limited to Members of the committee, the committee secretariat staff and such other persons whose presence are required or allowed by the Chairperson.

No testimony taken or evidence presented in an executive session, or any summary or excerpt thereof or documents related thereto, in whole or in part, shall be made public, unless authorized by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum.

SEC. 4. *Internal Rules and Quorum.* – Subject to the *Rules of the House of Representatives* and to these rules, the committee tasked to conduct an inquiry may adopt supplementary internal rules of procedure to govern the conduct of the inquiry.

One-fifth (1/5) of all the Members of a committee or a majority of all the Members of a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. The Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the Deputy Majority Leaders, the Minority Leader and the Deputy Minority Leaders or the Members deputized by them shall be added to the total number of committee or subcommittee Members, as the case may be, for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum if they are present in a meeting.

SEC. 5. *Rules of Procedure and Evidence.* – The Rules of Court shall be suppletory to these rules.

SEC. 6. *Appearance of Counsel.* – The person at whose instance the inquiry was initiated may be represented by counsel if he/she so desires.

A witness shall be informed by the committee or subcommittee that he/she may be represented by counsel. When informed by a witness of his/her desire to be represented by counsel or when such witness requests to be represented by counsel, the committee or subcommittee may provide him/her with a *counsel de oficio,* or allow him/her to be assisted by counsel of his/her own choice.

The participation of counsel for the witness during the hearing and while the witness is testifying shall be limited to advising said witness of his/her legal rights.

Counsel for a witness shall conduct himself/herself in a professional manner and shall observe proper decorum. Otherwise, upon a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum, such counsel shall be subject to contempt or to such other disciplinary action that may include censure and removal from the room where the hearing is being conducted.

A counsel ordered removed from the room where the hearing is being conducted may, upon his request, be allowed to remain in the room as an observer. As such, he/she shall sit in the place reserved for the general public and shall have no participation in the proceedings.

In cases where a counsel for a witness is ordered removed from the room, the witness shall be given reasonable time, as may be determined by the committee, to secure the services of another counsel. Should the witness deliberately or capriciously fail or refuse to obtain the services of another counsel, a *counsel de officio* may be provided to the witness by the committee within a reasonable time. Thereafter, the hearing shall continue, and the testimony of such witness shall be heard.

SEC. 7. *Compulsory Attendance of Witnesses.* – The committee shall have the power to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena duces tecum* to witnesses in any part of the country, signed by the Chairperson or acting Chairperson and the Speaker or acting Speaker. However, if the committee is unable to secure the signature of the Speaker or acting Speaker on a *subpoena* and/or *subpoena duces tecum,* it may request the Committee on Rules to act on the matter. Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules through a majority vote of all its Members, after determining that the attendance of a witness is indispensable to the effective conduct of the inquiry and/or to the attainment of the objective(s) thereof, the Speaker shall issue a *subpoena* and/or a *subpoena duces tecum* to compel the attendance of a witness.

Within Metro Manila, such process shall be served by the Sergeant-at-Arms or his assistant. Outside Metro Manila, service of such process may be made by the appropriate police officer or authority of the town or city, upon request of the Secretary General.

Witnesses shall testify under oath to be administered by the Chairperson or by any other person authorized by law.

Witnesses who are not government officials summoned by the committee shall be entitled, upon their request and subject to the approval of the Speaker, to reasonable transportation expenses and such other amounts as may be deemed necessary for their stay in Metro Manila.

Subpoena shall be served to witnesses at least three days before a scheduled hearing in order to give them every opportunity to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel, should they desire.

Each *subpoena* shall be accompanied by a notice stating that the witness may convey to the committee, by mail, telephone or any other electronic communication device, his/her desire to confer with the secretary of the committee prior to the date of the hearing.

A witness shall be limited to giving information relevant and germane to the subject matter under investigation. The committee shall rule upon the admissibility of any testimony or information presented by the witness. Privileged communications shall be respected.

SEC. 8. *Record of Inquiry.* – The testimony of witnesses shall be recorded in verbatim. Records of testimonies given in executive sessions shall be placed in the custody of the Secretary General who shall ensure their preservation and confidentiality.

A witness or his/her counsel, at the expense of the witness and upon written request duly approved by the committee chairperson, may obtain transcripts of any public testimony of the witness from the secretary of the committee.

SEC. 9. *Contempt.* – The committee may, by a vote of two-third (2/3) of the Members present, there being a quorum, punish for contempt any person who:

(a) refuses, after being duly summoned, to obey such summons without legal excuse;

(b) refuses to be sworn or placed under affirmation;

(c) refuses to answer any relevant inquiry;

(d) refuses to produce any books, papers, documents or records that are relevant to the inquiry and are in his/her possession;

(e) acts in a disrespectful manner towards any Member of the Committee or commits misbehavior in the presence of the committee; or

(f) Unduly interferes in the conduct of proceedings during meetings.

SEC. 10. *Penalty.* – Contempt of the committee shall be deemed contempt of the House. The person so cited under Section 9 may, upon order of the committee, be detained in such place as the Chairperson or acting Chairperson may designate.

Those cited under Section 9, paragraph (e) and (f) shall be detained for a period not exceeding ten days in a place designated by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson under the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

SEC. 11. *Rights of Witnesses.* – The rights of witnesses including their right against self-incrimination shall be respected.

Any witness desiring to deliver or present a prepared or written statement before the committee shall file a copy of such statement, under oath, with the secretary of the committee within forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing at which the statement is to be delivered or presented.

Such statements or portions thereof which are relevant and germane to the subject of the investigation may, at the conclusion of the testimony of the witness, and upon approval by a majority vote of the Members of the committee, a quorum being present, be inserted into the official transcript of the proceedings.

A witness shall be allowed to request for and be granted postponement of his/her appearance before the committee or subcommittee on grounds that render him/her physically unable to attend the inquiry/investigation: *Provided,* That the fact of physical inability to attend the inquiry/investigation is supported by appropriate medical and/or other certification as may be required by the committee or subcommittee, and: *Provided, further,* That no witness shall be granted more than two postponements without justifiable cause.

SEC. 12. *Rights of Persons Affected by a Hearing.* – Where applicable, any person named in a public hearing or in the released record of testimonies given in executive sessions, who has not been previously so named shall, within a reasonable time thereafter, be notified of such fact by registered letter, return receipt requested, to his/her address last known to the committee. The notice shall include:

(a) a statement that the person has been so named;

(b) the date and place of hearing where the person was named;

(c) the name of the person who testified; and

(d) information to the effect that a copy of the *Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation* is available for his/her perusal in the House.

Any person so notified, who believes that his/her character or reputation was adversely affected may, within seven days after receipt of said notice:

(a) communicate with the secretary of the committee, and/or

(b) request to appear in person, at his/her own expense, before the committee in public session and give testimony.

Any person testifying under the foregoing provisions shall be accorded the same privileges as any other witness appearing before the committee, and may be questioned concerning any matter relevant and germane to the subject of the investigation.

SEC. 13. *Report of Committee.* – The committee shall terminate an inquiry, and submit a report thereon within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of its receipt of the referral thereof. The inquiry is deemed to have commenced on the date of receipt of the referral of the privilege speech, resolution, petition or information to the pertinent committee. For this purpose, within three days from the time the inquiry commenced, the committee shall give written notice to the Committee on Rules that it is conducting an inquiry, stating therein the subject matter thereof and the date when the inquiry commenced.

The report shall contain the findings of the committee on the subject matter of the inquiry, the grounds on which its findings are based, and its recommendations, if any. The report shall be approved by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum. Members who vote against the approval of the report and who do not sign the majority report may make concurring and/or dissenting opinions.

No committee report, an excerpt or summary statement of the contents thereof, or any publication related thereto, shall be released by any Member of the committee and/or its secretariat staff prior to the inclusion of the report in the Calendar of Business.

The report, together with any concurring and/or dissenting opinion, shall be filed with the Secretary General of the House of Representatives who shall include the same in the Order of Business within three days from receipt thereof.

SEC. 14. *Action on Report.* – The report, upon inclusion in the Order of Business, shall be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* – These Rules shall take effect seven days after publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.
Speaker

This Rules of Procedures Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation was adopted by the House of Representatives on September 15, 2004.

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Ransom trail leads to case of money laundering

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has uncovered a money-laundering case involving a Cebu-based syndicate which succeeded in raising 6 million yen (P3 million) from the kidnapping of a Japanese national last year.

In the first money-laundering case to be cracked open in Cebu province, the justice department, acting on the complaint of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), filed money-laundering charges against a certain Alfredo Baclado whose bank account was used to collect ransom from the family of Ryohei Sato.

The money-laundering case arose from the kidnapping of Sato, 70, who was abducted on Jan. 30, 2003 in Lapu-Lapu City. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of 6 million yen from his family in Japan.

According to the AMLC, Yoko Sato, the kidnapped man's daughter, sent the money from Tokyo to the savings account of a James Yap in a domestic commercial bank in Lapu-Lapu.

After the ransom money was credited to the bank account, several withdrawals amounting to P455,900 was made through automated teller machines, according to the AMLC.

James Yap turned out to be Baclado.

Despite the ransom payment, Sato was not released and his whereabouts are unknown.

The council alerted the justice department to the money-laundering aspect of the case. The department filed the charges against Baclado in Lapu-Lapu City last Sept. 21.

A separate kidnapping-for-ransom case against Baclado and his associates is pending trial before the Lapu-Lapu City regional court.

Money laundering is a crime in which proceeds from an unlawful activity are transacted to make them appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

The law against dirty money allows the government to look into any transaction, whether a single, a series or a combination, worth at least P500,000.

This gives the authorities the leeway to probe cash deposits and investments deemed suspicious or found to be "without any credible purpose or origin, underlying trade obligation or contract."

The Philippines remains trapped in the list of so-called "uncooperative" countries drawn up by the Paris-based international anti-money laundering watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The government does not see the country being stricken off the blacklist anytime soon.

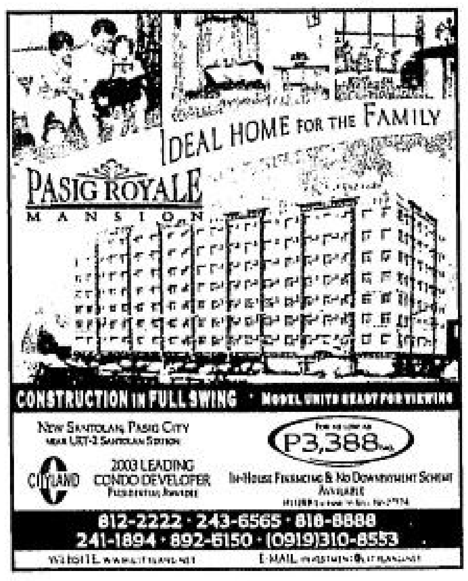
The FATF is an organization formed by the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which includes the powerful Group of Seven developed nations.

The organization included the Philippines in the original list of 15 non-cooperative countries and territories released in 2000. At that time, the country did not yet have a law against money laundering.

In 2001, Congress passed an Anti-Money Laundering Law but the FATF was not convinced that the new legislation had complied with international standards.

IMPORTANT

To the devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS. Tomorrow, October 1, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. On Monday, Oct. 4, will be the FEAST DAY of ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Founder of the Franciscan Order. A solemn mass is scheduled at 6:00 PM at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati to celebrate the Feast Day.



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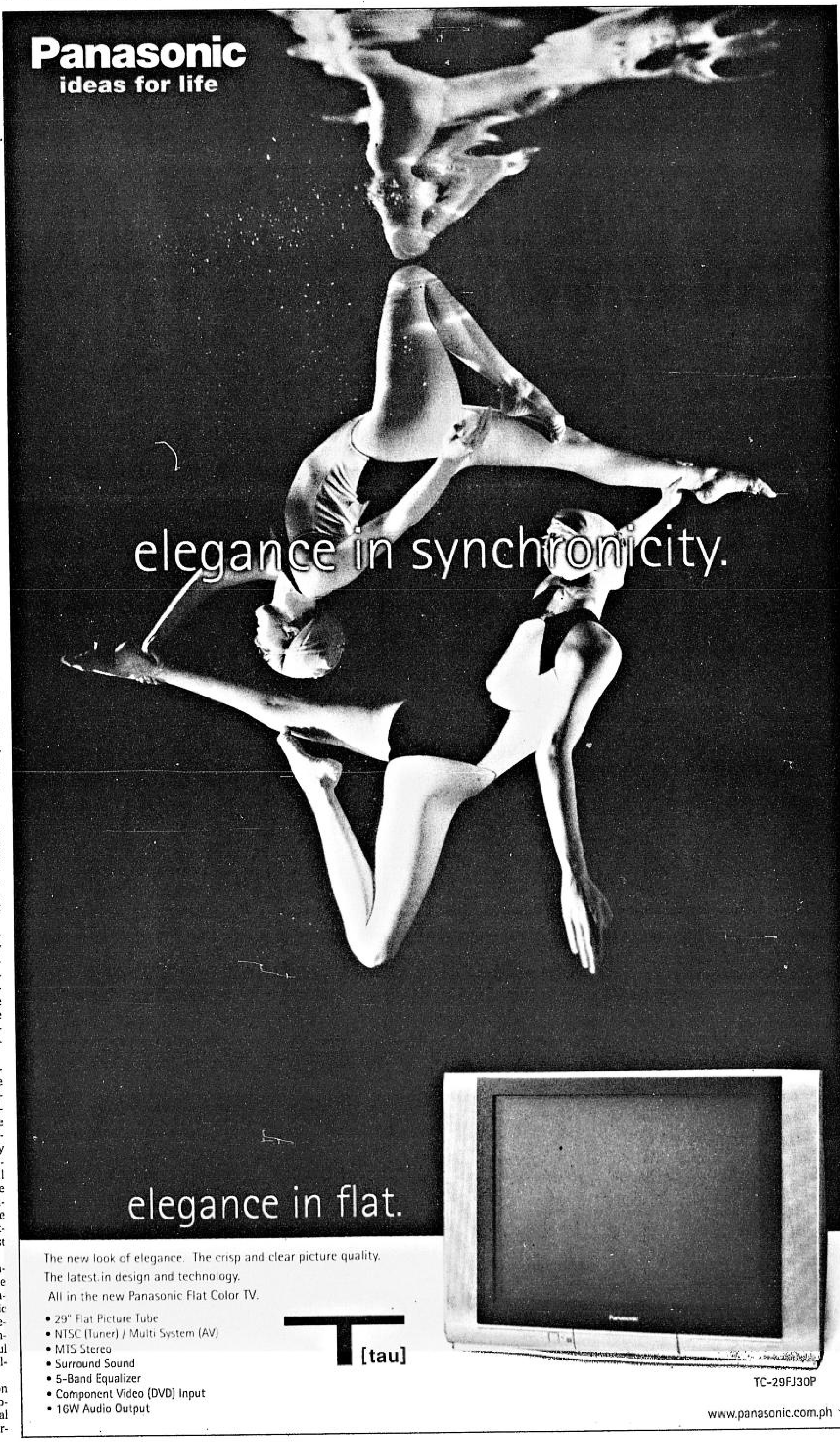

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Italian, Egyptian hostages freed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Two female Italian hostages seized in Baghdad three weeks ago were freed on Tuesday along with kidnapped Iraqis and Egyptians in a flurry of releases, but an abducted Briton remained under threat of death.

An Arab television report said two French journalists were also close to being freed, but the French government declined to comment.

The two freed Italian aid workers, Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, were safe and well, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said. They and two Iraqi colleagues seized with them had been freed after "difficult" negotiations, he said.

News of their release sparked scenes of joy across Italy, and Italian television showed live pictures of the jet carrying the two Simonas, as they are affectionately known in Italy, touch down at Ciampino airport at 11:15 p.m.

"We are well," the two told reporters before they were taken away for questioning by antiterror magistrates looking into their kidnapping.

Within minutes of their release, an Egyptian telephone company said four of six of its engineers snatched last week had also been set free.

But the fate of British hostage, engineer Kenneth Bigley, who was seized 12 days ago and has been threatened with beheading, remained unclear.

Pari and Torretta, both aged 29, were taken at gunpoint from their central Baghdad offices on Sept. 7 in a brazen kidnapping that jolted the thousands of foreigners working in Iraq.

"This is an extraordinary moment of joy," said Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, who thanked Arab and Islamic leaders for helping Rome during the crisis.

A Kuwaiti daily said earlier on Tuesday the women's captors had agreed to free the hostages for a $1-million ransom.

Announcing their release to parliament, Berlusconi said the secret services had located their whereabouts earlier this week, but rather than risk using violence to secure their release, the Italian government had preferred to negotiate.

He said the breakthrough came early on Tuesday "after a night which led us to a very difficult choice with two lines of pursuit which could have been mutually conflictual."

He gave no further details and did not mention any ransom.

Despite the flurry of releases, which follows the freeing on Monday of an Iranian diplomat kidnapped nearly two months ago, there has been no word on the fate of Bigley, 62, abducted by gunmen with two American colleagues from their Baghdad home. *Reuters*

SIMONA Pari, left, and Simona Torretta smile upon their arrival at Rome's Ciampino military airport, late Tuesday night. AP

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

So the Public May Know

Today, there is an alarming, unabated proliferation of "skin clinics," owners of which boldly and misleadingly call themselves "dermatologists." Several of these establishments are actually cosmetic parlors, while others are manned by physicians who are self-proclaimed dermatologists. Are they really legitimate dermatologists? Dermatologists are licensed medical doctors who have undergone 3 years of training on the science of dermatology which includes diagnosis and medical and surgical management of disorders of the skin, hair and nails. Mere attendance in seminars, workshops or conventions, both locally or abroad, without the basic three-year dermatology training is certainly not enough to make one a dermatologist.

In the country, the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) is the only recognized accrediting body for dermatological training. It is likewise the **only** society recognized by the Philippine Medical Association for dermatology. Now, fifty two (52) years in existence, it has pioneered and brought dermatology to high distinction in the Philippines. Currently, it has a total membership of more than six hundred qualified dermatologists many of whom have obtained further training and recognition abroad. The PDS is a member of the International League of Dermatological Societies and the League of ASEAN Dermatological Societies.

We, therefore, warn the public to be careful in choosing to whom you will entrust your skin.

PDS Secretariat:
Rm. 1015 South Tower, Cathedral Heights Bldg, St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines 1102
Tel. No. (632) 7230101 loc. 2015 • Tel/Fax No. (632) 7277309 • Email: pds@pacific.net.ph • Website: www.pds.org.ph

US travel checks flawed, invasive, says watchdog

BERLIN—By subjecting most visitors to scans of their faces and fingers, the United States will this week expand a mass surveillance system that threatens freedom and race relations, a privacy watchdog says.

From Thursday, most visitors entering the United States will have to put each index finger in turn on a glass plate that electronically scans it, and to have a digital photo taken.

The United States says its US-Visit program —already in place for travelers requiring visas and now being rolled out more widely—will add an average of just 15 seconds to entry checks and will enhance security.

It says the biometric data will be stored in databases, along with personal information such as full name, date of birth, citizenship, sex and passport number, and can be accessed by border, consular, immigration and law enforcement officials.

London-based rights group Privacy International said in a report on Wednesday that the scheme relied on flawed technology and opaque, error-strewn watchlists on which innocent people could find themselves wrongly identified as security threats.

"There is no end to the uses to which this sensitive information will be put, nor any meaningful borders or boundaries limiting the flow of this data," it said.

It cited former pop star Cat Stevens, a Muslim convert now known as Yusaf Islam who was deported from the United States last week, as a prominent person who had fallen foul of security watchlists.

A dual Canadian-Syrian national, Maher Arar, was deported to Syria by US agents in 2002 and says he was tortured there. He is suing US officials, who he says were acting on information from Canada that marked him out as a suspected al-Qaida member; Canadian officials deny this.

"The watchlists are numerous, and plagued with errors," Privacy International said. Its director Simon Davies said blacks and Muslims would be disproportionately targeted.

"What you'll witness in the coming months and years is an exponential rise in the number of black and Muslim travelers who will be turned away, arrested, shackled, deported, as Cat Stevens discovered," he said in a telephone interview.

The United States says the US-Visit scheme will protect both citizens and visitors, safeguard privacy and facilitate legitimate travel and trade. *Reuters*

US scientists, 10 Nobel laureates launch campaign against Bush

WASHINGTON—US scientists, including 10 Nobel laureates, have launched a campaign in key US states to denounce the policies of President George W. Bush.

The group, Scientists and Engineers for Change, was created at the beginning of the week, said its spokesperson, Joy Howell.

The 25 members of the organization has scheduled a series of conferences, during which they will try to convince their audiences that the Bush administration has abused science, Howell said.

The scientists will speak in states including Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia and Wisconsin, where Bush could be beaten by Democratic rival John Kerry.

"This administration's politicization and misuse of science have made it increasingly difficult for science to play its rightful role in public policy-making," the group said on its website, www.scientistsandengineersforchange.org.

They said this attitude was "not surprising from a president who said during his campaign that 'the jury is still out on evolution.'"

According to the scientists, "This situation will not change until the American people elect a leader who respects the value and integrity of science more than the self-interest of his political allies and special-interest backers."

In addition, the group said, "President George W. Bush's economic policies have severely harmed prospects for utilizing the federal (research and development) portfolio as a tool for enhancing American economic competitiveness."

The founding members of the new group include Nobel Prize winners Peter Agre (Chemistry, 2003), Sidney Altman (Chemistry, 1989), Dudley Hershbach (Chemistry, 1986), Douglas Osheroff (Physics, 1996) and Arno Penzias (Physics, 1978) as well as former National Science Foundation director and head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Neal Lane. *AFP*

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Private rocket ship aims for $10-M space prize

MOJAVE, Calif.—A three-seat rocket plane with stubby wings and a nose studded with round windows will try to blast out of Earth's atmosphere above the Mojave desert on Wednesday to qualify for a $10-million prize designed to spur commercial space travel.

The Ansari X Prize will go to the first team to build a spacecraft without government help, launch three people or their weight equivalent at least 100 km straight up, then repeat the feat with the same craft within two weeks.

SpaceShipOne, the first to try for the prize, was built by aircraft designer Burt Rutan's company, Scaled Composites, and financed by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen.

The venture cost $20 million to $30 million, a small fraction of the cost of similar government space programs.

On June 21, SpaceShipOne, helmed by 63-year-old test pilot Mike Melvill, became the first privately funded, manned craft to reach space.

Melvill spent about three weightless minutes watching the Earth curve below him under a black sky before gliding to a safe reentry on the same Mojave runway from which he took off.

On Wednesday, SpaceShipOne's rocket engine will have to work harder—on board will be enough ballast to stand for two passengers, including tools belonging to the team and Rutan's college slide rule.

Following a successful flight on Wednesday, SpaceShipOne will have to fly by Oct. 13 to meet the X Prize requirement of two space flights within two weeks. Rutan has tentatively set the next flight for Oct. 4.

The X Prize has inspired 26 private space programs in seven countries but Rutan and Allen have remained ahead of the pack throughout the prize's eight-year history. *Reuters*

Asia bird flu death toll climbs to 30

BANGKOK—Vietnam confirmed a new bird flu death to bring Asia's human toll to 30 on Wednesday, while Thailand rued its flawed efforts to control the epidemic after reporting its first likely case of the virus jumping from one person to another.

The latest reported death was a 14-month-old baby in Hanoi, who became Vietnam's 20th victim. He was sickened with bird flu's typical symptoms of fever and coughing on Aug. 28 and died Sept. 5, a Vietnamese Health Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

That announcement came a day after Thailand raised concern among health experts by reporting its first case of probable human-to-human transmission of the virus—a 26-year-old woman who became the country's 10th confirmed fatality.

Pranee Sodchuen died Sept. 20 of bird flu, probably after catching the disease while taking care of her sickened daughter Sakuntala in a hospital. The 11-year-old died Sept. 12 but was cremated before she could be tested to confirm she had bird flu.

The recent deaths in Vietnam and Thailand are part of a second wave of outbreaks since the disease first swept through the poultry stocks of much of Asia at the start of this year, killing or forcing the cull of tens of millions of birds. A total of 30 people have died.

New outbreaks of bird flu in recent months also have been reported in Malaysia, China, Cambodia and Indonesia.

Pranee is the first person believed to have contracted the disease from another human, rather than poultry. She had never come in contact with poultry and did not live with her daughter who was being raised in a village where chickens were bred.

Pranee's 32-year-old sister, who also had tended Sakuntala in the hospital, was diagnosed with bird flu Monday and is now in an isolation ward, as is her 6-year-old son. Both are listed in good condition. *AP*

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LIFE, one of the 20th century's most influential periodicals, will be reintroduced to more than 12 million readers in the US by Time Inc. on Oct. 1. The magazine has been updated to reflect contemporary feel and will include fascinating stories, photographs and tips and ideas for the weekend. The debut issue features Sarah Jane Parker as its cover story. AFP/LIFE MAGAZINE

WORLDBRIEFS

Quake shakes California

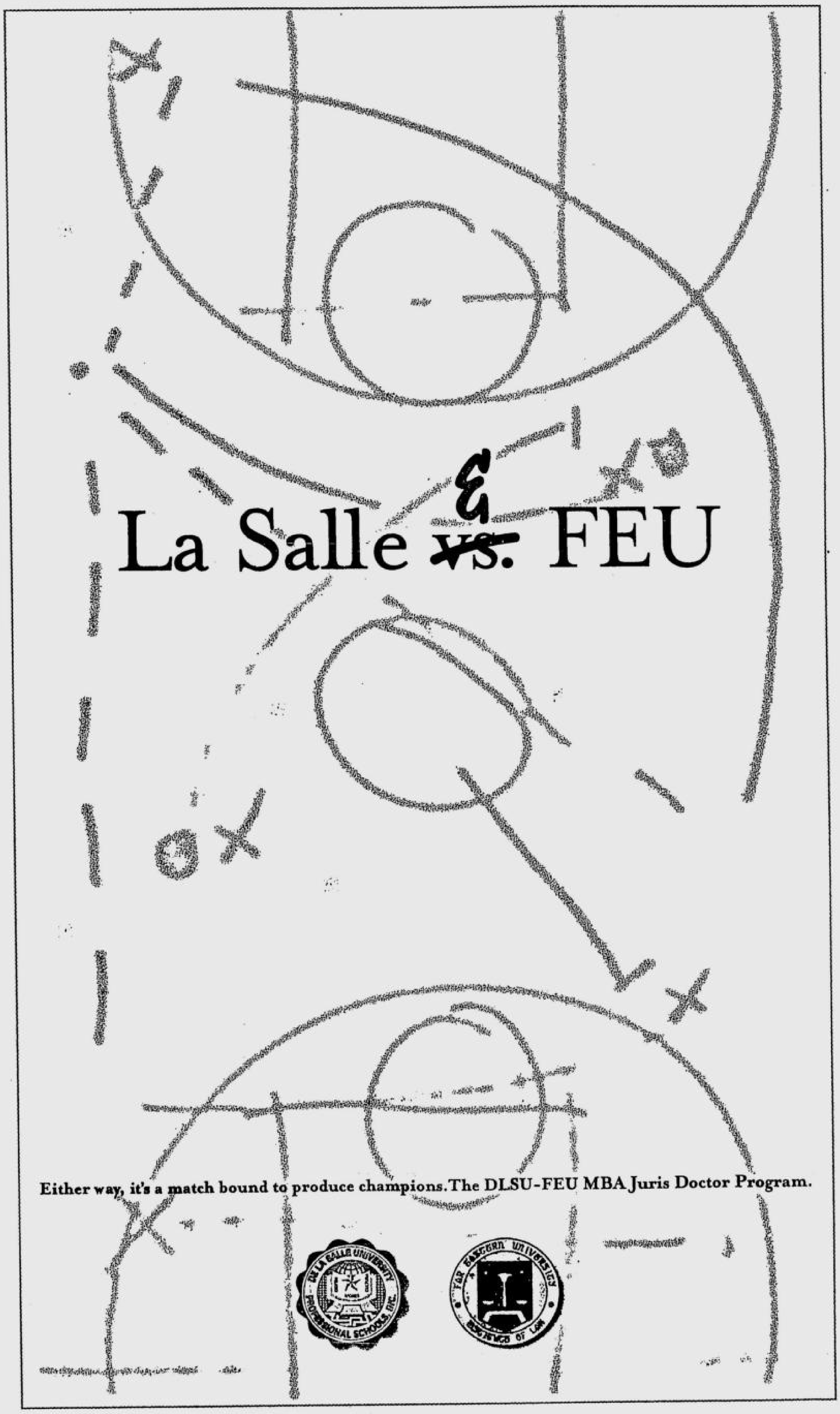
PARKFIELD, California—A strong earthquake shook the state Tuesday from Los Angeles to San Francisco, cracking pipes, breaking bottles of wine and knocking pictures from walls. There were no immediate reports of any injuries from the 6.0-magnitude quake and its more than 160 aftershocks. The quake was centered about 11 km southeast of Parkfield, a town of 37 people known as California's earthquake capital. The town is one of the world's most seismically active areas, located on the San Andreas Fault. "Things were shaking so bad you couldn't tell where to go next," said Parkfield Vineyard owner Harry Miller, who grows 69 has of wine grapes. "Trees shaking like brooms, and dust coming from everywhere." The quake tipped over about 300 cases of his wine, and five or six of Miller's buildings—including his home—were damaged. Most of his water pipes burst. The quake struck at 10:15 a.m. and was felt along a 563-km stretch, as far north as Sacramento and as far south as Sta. Ana, southeast of Los Angeles. The center was about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. *AP*

Palestinians mark uprising

RAMALLAH, West Bank—The Palestinian uprising marked its fourth anniversary with signs that the violent Hamas group is preparing a formidable political challenge to Yasser Arafat, despite a series of devastating blows from Israel. Hamas published newspaper ads urging supporters to vote in upcoming municipal elections, saying "it's time for change." A top Hamas leader also indicated that the group may challenge Arafat in presidential elections, which have not yet been scheduled. The uprising erupted on Sept. 28, 2000, after Ariel Sharon, then Israel's opposition leader, visited a sensitive Jerusalem hilltop revered by Jews and Muslims. Palestinian riots broke out, and five months later Sharon defeated Ehud Barak in a special election for prime minister. The fighting has taken a heavy toll on both sides, killing more than 3,000 Palestinians and nearly 1,000 Israelis. *AP*

US 'Taliban' seeks release

SAN FRANCISCO—John Walker Lindh, serving 20 years in jail for fighting alongside the Taliban, asked the US government on Tuesday to lessen his sentence after it decided to release a second American captured in Afghanistan. Lindh, 23, dubbed the "American Taliban," was captured in 2001 during the Afghanistan war and was sentenced in 2002 after a plea deal. His lawyer, James Brosnahan, said he had filed an appeal to commute the sentence after news that a long-held accused enemy combatant, Yaser Hamdi, was to be flown from the US to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. A Saudi-born US citizen, Hamdi was captured on the same day and place as Lindh. "I hope America can find it in her heart to forgive John," Lindh's mother Marilyn Walker, a homemaker, told a news conference. "John has admitted he made a mistake when he went to Afghanistan in June 2001 to fight in the civil war between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance. Despite what people may think, John Lindh took no action whatsoever against his native country." *Reuters*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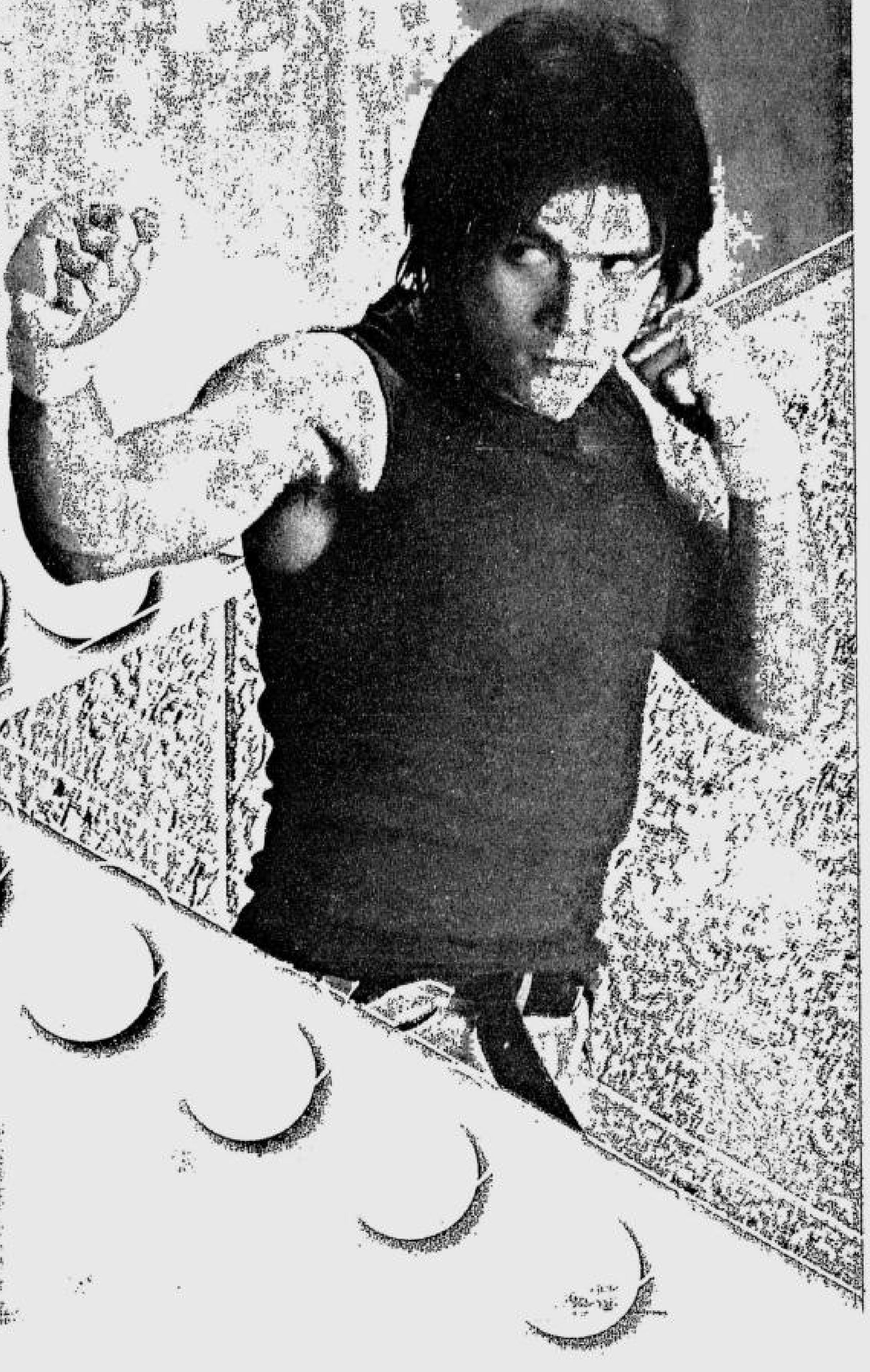

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OPINION

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Weakness

EDITORIALS

THE STRONGEST argument against the proposed grant of amnesty to the young officers and soldiers behind the failed mutiny in July 2003 is the barefaced impunity with which Gregorio Honasan, his comrades and his patrons attempted again and again to grab power from President Corazon Aquino, unleashing mayhem and destruction to the tune of billions of pesos. The kid-glove treatment early on accorded the rebel soldiers by an administration that, although triumphant in its becoming, was trapped in an uneasy partnership with a military unaccustomed to civilian leadership, served not only to coddle their petulance but also to display weakness. And as any student of psychology would know, weakness—or even the perception of it—is a no-no in statecraft.

But the way it looks, there's a big chance the Magdalo boys would be granted amnesty after the court martial is over and done with. The Palace insists that the six leaders of the failed mutiny did not seek concessions or special treatment in exchange for making a public apology to their commander in chief, but it is also saying that the hearings will be "expedited." The public can take that to mean the hearings would be pushed, or speeded up (a context quaintly Filipino, of a piece with such time-honored practices as *lagay*). At any rate, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz—in whose office the six officers met last week with the woman whom one of them once described as "yakking and yakking"—is preparing to study the possibility of amnesty. Here we go again.

It's quite easy to see why the idea of amnesty for the Magdalo boys appeals to certain sectors. If their leaders are halfway representative of them, they're young, articulate and had a good academic record. And despite the possible antipathy that two or three of the leaders may have generated from the viewing public during their televised takeover of the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati, the grievances they aired—corruption in the military, for one, the sort that allegedly allows soldiers to go to combat with inadequate gear while generals wallow in luxury—struck resonance in the hearts and minds of many.

Yet for all that, for the wistful sentiment among many that despite the group's unacceptable mode of action, a substantial change would somehow result in life in these parts, it clearly broke the chain of command and challenged the state—and is, therefore, legally liable for punishment. A strong state would not have hesitated to seize the moment and impose a punishment exacting and swift. But, as has been pointed out, the moment is long past for a lesson to be unequivocally imposed.

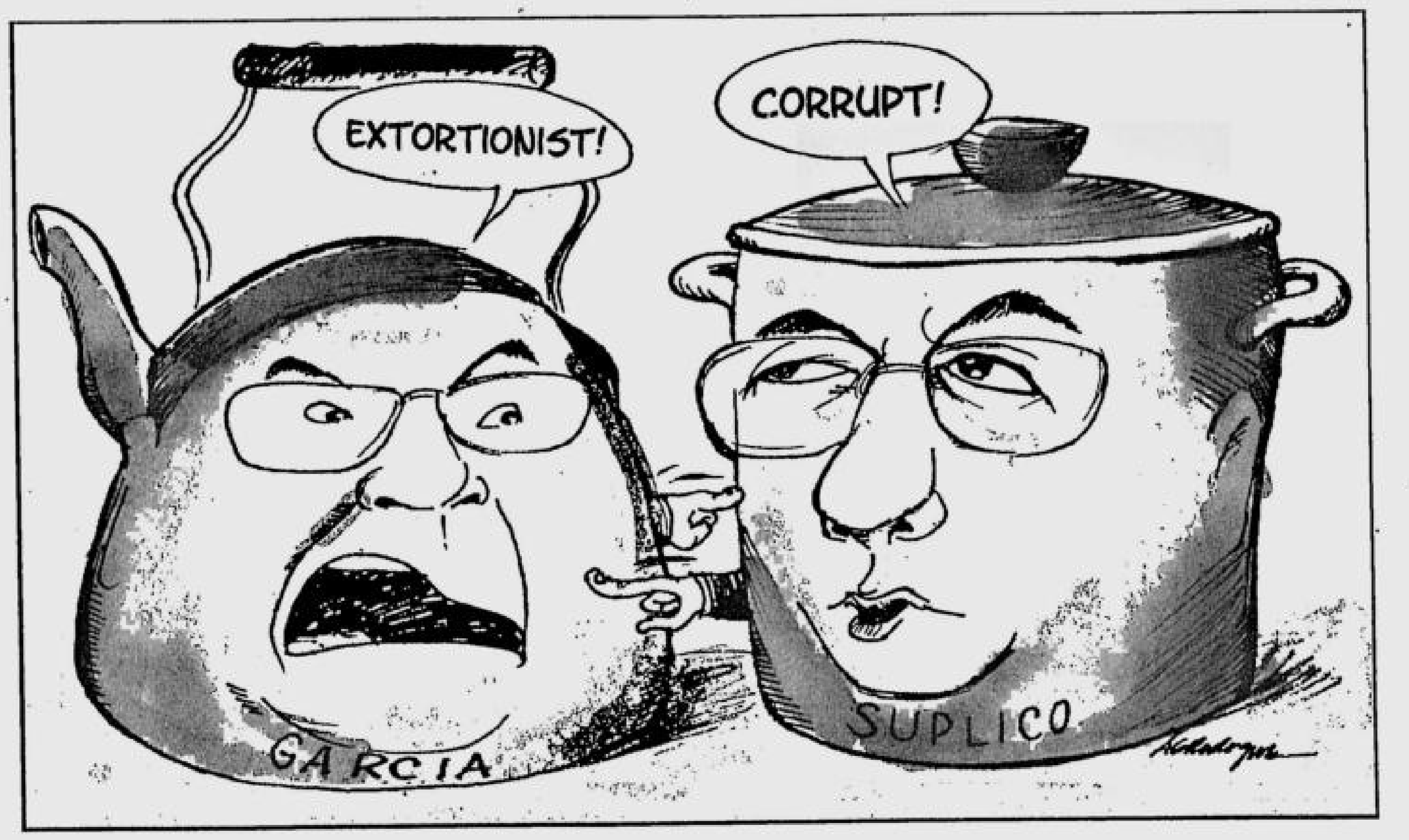
The mutineers languished behind bars for more than a year, their youth sapped by inactivity and the uncertainty of their future. It was fertile ground for a compromise, although both parties deny that any such thing occurred. Still, in these parts where authorities seem to talk from both sides of their mouths and the administration has lost credibility (through no fault but its own, announcing one thing and blithely doing another as though it had no shred of respect for honor, let alone memory), it is clear what the public will believe.

Strength

GRANTING that quid pro quo governed the Magdalo leaders' apology to President Macapagal-Arroyo, and granting that the grant of amnesty was part of it, the attentive observer is left to wonder what the government would be holding as the prize. Perhaps the names of the mastermind(s) of the adventure that again brought a black eye to the Philippines' image abroad and discouraged precious investors from even setting foot on our shores?

It's only fair that the government get something out of a possible amnesty and reinstatement of the mutineers. After all, it's not unreasonable for, say, important and decisive evidence to be turned over by a criminal before the government allows him or her to become a state witness. This is the way of the exchange; there is no room for a vacuum on either side.

But that's granting there is room for a fair exchange, or that the Arroyo administration has the capability in this case to bargain from a position of strength. Is this at all possible in these parts where the military, ever the old boys' club, appears to be still calling the shots, the way it did during the Marcos regime?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GARCIA
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Values without illusions

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE SUNLIGHT filtered through windows of the 5th-century church on one of Rome's seven hills, the Aventino. The light framed the statue, garbed in brown and cream-white.

"That's Marie Francoise Therese Martin," the wife murmured.

Marie what's her name? Therese, the *promdi* from Lisieux. Today, she towers with theologian Thomas Aquinas, the Iberian reformer Teresa of Avila, Gregory and other church doctors. Many prefer the diminutive "The Little Flower." This Carmelite used that image in "Story of a Soul," her 1895 autobiography.

Her feast day is marked tomorrow, from chapels to Carmelite houses in Quezon City, says INQUIRER's Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, Sulu, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, among the country's 22 Carmels.

Hundreds are christened "Teresita." Agnes Gouxha Bojaxhiu chose that name too when she donned the veil.

Agnes who? Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "saint of the gutters," who ministered to dying outcasts.

Few knew the 15-year-old Therese on her entry into Lisieux Carmel in 1889. (Jose Rizal was then writing "Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años" in Spain.) Fewer noticed when, nine years later, she died at 24.

Today, she is known worldwide as Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. She didn't have a Ph.D., a Swiss bank account or political power. So why is she remembered with affection?

"Tall and robust, childlike (but) with the discernment of a 50-year-old ... she knew how to make you weep with devotion, or die with laughter at recreation," some recall. And within Lisieux's bare cloisters, her life was a cycle of banal duties.

Tuberculosis and gangrene of the intestines later wracked her frame with pain. "If I didn't have the faith, I would have killed myself without hesitation," she admitted.

Many Filipinos can identify with her illness. Incidence of TB here is 226 for every 100,000, double the 100 for Thais. But is Therese relevant to stressed-out folk like us, buffeted by rebels, misrule and smog?

In the infirmary, a dying Therese overheard two sisters fret that little could be written into her *circulaire*, the traditional notice of death mailed to other Carmels. But just 28 years after her *circulaire* was filed, Pope Pius XI canonized this "cipher." She bolted to the title "Patron of the Missions," along with that peripatetic extrovert, the Jesuit Francis Xavier.

That's breakneck speed for an institution that shuns hurry. The Cebuano (?) "OFW" and martyr, Pedro Calungsod, was beatified 330 years after his Guam martyrdom.

Elevation to the altar in less than a century is Pope John Paul II's imprint on the ancient process. Those honored include: Maximilian Kolbe, who took a prisoner's place on the Gestapo execution list, Jose Maria Escriva of Opus Dei and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Part of Therese's influence stems from her brief autobiography, read by presidents and laborers. Yet, she was reluctant to write it. But the Lisieux prioress, her elder sister, requested she do so. In her spare time, by flickering candlelight in her unheated cell, she wrote it by hand on ruled scrap paper.

"What I have written...will make the kindness of God known better," Therese told her sister a month before her death. But the first 2,000 copies, distributed in 1898, seemed like her *circulaire*—ordinary and forgettable.

Today, "Story Of A Soul" has been translated into 38 languages, at last count. "Once read, it cannot be forgotten," says Image Books editor John Beever. How does one explain this drawing power?

In "Story," Therese sketches her "little way": ordinary deeds done with confidence in the Father's limitless goodness. This self-effacing nun, who sometimes dozed off in prayer, flatly insists: "Our faults do not distress God...Most people judge His power by their own limited understanding."

Her "little way" included coping gently with irritable nuns, curbing her tongue, stifling complaints over dirty laundry water spilled on her, performing unasked small services, like folding the cloaks of others. Undramatic fidelity, she taught, was "a spirituality that harbored no illusions."

Our frailties, she taught novices, are smothered in the Father's kindness. We are not called to flagellation or heroic deeds. But fidelity to daily duties, out of love, mediate the Father's presence in a world in need of healing.

She saw with clarity and lived out with constancy what the mystic John of the Cross of Carmel wrote: "In the evening of life, we shall all be examined on love."

After Dr. De Corneire's final visit, Therese gasps: "Is it today, Mother?" The prioress strokes her skeletal hands and gently answers: "Yes, child."

That strikes a chord. For all of us, without exception, the time comes when we too ask: "Is it today?" And the *circulaire* of our deaths will also record nothing extraordinary. Our problems are mostly banal: fuming in traffic gridlocks or impatiently shrugging off pains-in-the-neck.

But God's mercy can transfigure all, Therese insisted. "The justice that frightens so many is the object of my joy and confidence," she wrote. "I expect as much from God's justice as His mercy."

That theme reverberates in "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," the 1928 Pulitzer prize winning novel by Thornton Wilder: "There is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Alarm bell

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE THING was a subject of much (heated) discussion in the Internet some years ago, and for some reason has gotten a new lease on life of late. That is the apparent anti-Filipino remarks of Art Bell, an American talk-show host. Filipinos and Americans alike were up in arms over his commentaries some years ago and tried to get him fired from his radio station. They are so as well today, to go by the irate expostulations I've gotten in my e-mail.

There's only one problem here: Art Bell never said those things. His supposed remarks were a hoax, as the INQUIRER found out a couple of years ago. And Bell, a completely respectable talk-show host, has been protesting it since it came out on the Internet. The hoax has him saying:

"In the past few decades, Filipinos have begun to infest the United States like some sort of disease.... Nothing respectable has ever been created by the Filipino people.... Young Filipino men in America... have an enormously perverted affection for Japanese cars... In their minds, they somehow believe they are Asian...." (In fact), in Japan, Filipinos are heavily discriminated against. The only Filipinos that can live successfully in Japan are the prostitutes.... Nothing in Filipino Culture can be seen as Asian. They have no architectural, artistic, or cultural influence which is in any way, Asian. Thinking of the great countries in Asia such as Japan, Korea, and China there is no way you can possibly connect the Philippine Islands."

There's a lot more, but you get the drift. What can I say? The Web crawls with spiders. It is as much home to nasty pranksters as to software sharers. While at this, to this day I keep getting e-mail that has apparently bounced back to me. "Apparently" because I never sent those e-mails to begin with. Clearly, the characters who kept sending people e-mails purportedly from me during the height of the Iraq War (someone wrote me to say he got pornographic material; I asked him to send it "back" but unhappily got no answer) are still alive and crawling in the woodwork.

What has given the Art Bell hoax a life of its own however is that it is perfectly believable. It is perfectly believable that an American radio host would say it. Howard Stern comes to mind. And only recently Jay Leno had some funny things to say about the size of the Filipino contingent in Iraq and its capacity to win the 100-meter dash. Their remarks, of course, are not of the order of wholesale Filipino-bashing, but it is not inconceivable that someone should up the ante.

What makes the hoax credible moreover is that there is a grain of truth in it. It's a trick mirror, but a trick mirror does reflect something even if it presents it in grotesque form. Whoever put the words in Bell's mouth knew a thing or two about Filipinos.

True enough, compared to the other Asian countries, we seem to be utterly without accomplishment. More so now than ever. We have no culture comparable to that of any of the East Asian countries, or indeed even the Southeast Asian ones. Thailand has every reason to draw in the tourists (it has 10 times more than us) and that isn't only because of the pleasures of the flesh it offers (we supply it equally abundantly).

Of course, we can always argue that the United States, quite apart from Spain and Japan, had a great deal to do with creating the cultural wasteland. I remember saying exactly that some months ago when US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone lamented the culture of corruption that was ravaging these islands. Pray, what is colonialism but an object—or abject—lesson in it? Close to four centuries of colonial rule does take its toll on a people.

But it is cold comfort. True enough, too, it's not just that we have no identity to be proud of, unlike other Asians, it's that we have no identity, period. We do tend to poach on other people's identities in lieu of brandishing our own. The only thing wrong about the hoax in fact is that it accuses Filipinos of usurping an Asian identity. That is not so at all. Filipinos do not like to usurp an Asian identity, they like to usurp a Western identity. Or more specifically an American identity. That is true not just with Filipinos in America but with Filipinos in the Philippines. The alienation of the Filipino does not begin in America, it begins right at home.

The colonial label, "little brown brother," has become the post-colonial label, American citizen, or green card holder. That is the great Filipino dream, and that is the great Filipino tragedy.

Nothing has driven that home to me more than something a Filipino advertiser in America once told me. During an advertising conference, he said, he was astonished to see that American advertisers had special ads for various ethnic communities—Mexicans, Chinese, Vietnamese, etc. but none for Filipinos. He learned soon enough why. Filipinos were considered a subset of the American market, they did not need a different pitch. A reasonable assumption, to go by the very ads we have right here. Filipinos are not assimilated, they are subsumed—and the subsumption begins right at home.

And true enough, finally, we have been tumbling into the world like a flood, though the United States remains the preferred country of exile, if not infesting it like a virus. That, along with leaving behind a country that is going nowhere and having a reputation for seizing other people's identities, a la "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers," opens us up to all sorts of parodies, nasty remarks, and well, hoaxes like this.

I am glad this hoax persists, even if we have to remove Bell from its shadow once and for all. It forces us to look at ourselves. We truly are becoming a people with no history, no identity, and the way things are, no home.

Someone should be ringing that Alarm Bell.

No thanks, Veravaidya

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IF this administration were to grant amnesty to the Oakwood mutineers, as three Cabinet members have suggested, instead of allowing the court martial to take place and reach a verdict, this country would really be the butt of jokes abroad as a "soft republic." My feedback is that we are being perceived abroad as "too soft" and "emotional" about everything—from the pullout of our small contingent in Iraq in the face of threats on the life of Angelo de la Cruz to the handling of the tax reform measures to the dilly-dallying on the cases against the Marcoses and their cronies. I think other nations eventually understood why the President responded the way she did in Iraq, but they will not be able to understand our kid-gloves treatment for the mutineers, especially since coup attempts are perceived to occur with alarming regularity due to the soft stance of the authorities toward rebel soldiers.

I submit that all the debate about them should cease and that justice be allowed to take its course.

* * *

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has every reason to get offended by Thai Sen. Mechai Veravaidya, popularly known as the "Condom King," who lectured Dayrit on how to contain AIDS here through the use of condoms. Veravaidya was quoted as criticizing the Philippine government for "lacking the will" to combat the deadly disease and tackle our burgeoning population problem. Who's he to lecture us about how we should run our country? That's plain interference. If a Filipino official were to go to Thailand and start bad-mouthing Thai officials, wouldn't he be pelted with tomatoes and hustled off to the airport? The problem is that any self-righteous official from abroad thinks he can give us a piece of his mind, and we meekly allow it. No wonder we're regarded as the doormat of the world.

* * *

In the second place, why should we allow Veravaidya to lecture us when, as Dayrit pointed out, the recorded incidence of AIDS here involves only 2,000 cases whereas in Thailand, over a million are infected with the HIV virus? Thailand has perhaps the worst AIDS problem in Asia and this has worried the World Health Organization for two decades now. It's easy to see why it threatens to reach pandemic proportions. For instead of concentrating first on a campaign to curb promiscuity and promote a more moral use of sex, officials like Veravaidya are merely pushing the use of condoms for safe sex even among the very young.

I think he ought to go home and tackle the very serious problem in his home front and leave us to handle our problem here. I agree with former Health Undersecretary Mario Tagiwalo that we cannot afford to be complacent about this problem, as he warned that there are about 6,000 HIV cases here. But we can debate this issue by ourselves, thank you.

* * *

Earlier I wrote that Rufino B. Bomasang, who had just been replaced as president and CEO of PNOC-Exploration Corp., graduated cum laude in mining engineering from the University of the Philippines. "Boomie," who is often referred to as "Mr. Energy," has served five Philippine presidents and seven Cabinet secretaries over the past 28 years in the energy secretary. Normally, a guy like him would be either too big or too busy to correct an error like that, but he wrote to say: "I did not graduate cum laude. I did top the Philippine Board Examination for Mining Engineers in January 1964 with a rating of 85.79 percent, the highest since 1953. I was a college scholar at UP for two semesters and as a member of the Kankana-ey tribe of the Cordilleras, I was a scholar of the Commission on National Integration throughout my college education."

* * *

Bomasang has finished his book, titled "From Gathering Firewood to Managing Energy Resources," which he will launch soon. This book, he says, contains "fragments of a life story" of one of the most successful tribal people (from the tribe generically referred to as the "Igorots"), and his story doubtless has inspired so many indigenous folks. But it's also about "transcending the challenges to indigenous energy sources," and thus is must reading as a panoramic history of the development of energy in this country. One of the most significant phases of his long career in energy was when he took part in the "all-important Malampaya Project" in various capacities, over 12 years, from the discovery of the first major gas field in 1989 to the completion of upstream development in October 2001.

* * *

The Malampaya project is to date the biggest single foreign investment here, and with oil prices soaring, the country is pinning its hopes on this natural gas project to further reduce our dependence on imported oils. As Bomasang noted in his book, our oil dependence hit 92 percent in 1976 but was reduced to 50 percent in 1985 and just over 20 percent today, because of the rise in alternative energy sources, such as Malampaya's natural gas and geothermal energy in Bicol and the Visayas.

But as Speaker Jose de Venecia stressed in his 12-point program for wealth generation, which he submitted to GMA, Malampaya is good for both RP and the foreign investors. He noted that Shell Company, which invested $4 to $5 billion when it took over the field from US Occidental Petroleum, will have fully recovered its cost by next year. This means that the government share in Malampaya of about $500 million a year or $10 billion over 20 years could begin to go up by next year, he said. "This is like recovering the Marcos wealth at $600 million a year or better," said JDV, who stressed that we should explore and develop more oil and gas wells in offshore Palawan.

Read all about our struggle for energy self-sufficiency in Bomasang's book. I'll let you know where to get it.

Shrine for the poor

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

CALL it congruence, synchronicity or whatever, but this week brought a couple of church-related news that are good news.

Rising fast in Tandang Sora in Quezon City is a shrine, Santuario de San Vicente de Paul, dedicated to the cause of the poor of the city. It is named after the 17th-century French saint who dedicated his life to the very poor.

The Santuario's raison d'être sounds best in Pilipino: *"Ang tunay na esensiya ng Santuario de San Vicente de Paul ay hindi tumutukoy sa malamig na semento at matayog na pader. Ang Santuario ay ang mga taong bumubuo nito. Ang mahihirap ang tanging buhay ng Santuario, at ang mayayamang nais magbahagi ng kanilang biyaya sa mahihirap ang magiging katuwang nito na magsisilbing kamay at paa para sa patuloy na paglago. Ang Santuario... ay yayakap sa lahat ng uri ng tao, mayaman man o mahirap. Misyon ng simbahang ito ang bigyan ng sapat na atensiyon at pagkalinga ang mahihirap at kulang palad."*

For those who don't understand Filipino: "The essence of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul lies not in the cold concrete and the high walls. The Santuario is the people who form it. The life of the Santuario draws mainly from the poor, and the rich who want to share their blessings with the poor are the partners who would serve as hands and feet so that it will flourish. The Santuario will embrace all, both the rich and the poor. This church's mission is to give attention and care to the poor and the less fortunate."

The Santuario will cost P100 to P150 million, I am told. Structures could vanish in a wink, but the spirit and vision behind them, if nurtured and built into hearts, could remain for all time. Church is more than just structure, we all know that, and this shrine that is taking shape is already showing in concrete how a church lives and breathes and thrives. But this is jumping the gun.

The cost would have made me groan had I not known about the spirit behind the project. Well, it wasn't as if the money was all there in the beginning and suddenly it was all going to be poured into a cold structure. But, as the saying goes, if you build it they will come. The funds came as the building progressed, and the poor, yes, even the poor, continue to give their widow's mite, because the shrine is theirs, and they know they belong. This is their cathedral. They say it speaks to them of hope.

Come to think of it, the so-called "church of the poor" need not literally be a replica of the hovels that the poor live in, though I also do not want to see a gilded edifice soaring in the midst of destitution and the people who run it enjoying five-star comfort.

The Santuario is within the six-hectare seminary grounds of the Vincentian fathers who run ministries in that part of Quezon City. Yes, they're doing an amazing job over there, especially at the Payatas garbage dump.

According to Fr. Atilano Fajardo, the awe-struck project director who has not ceased being amazed by how fast the dream is becoming a reality, they started with a mere P500,000. I hope the P150-million "investment" will multiply a hundredfold and generate more concern for the city's most neglected.

Held last Sunday, on the eve of the feast of St. Vincent, was a *"lakad alay"* (walkathon) that started from QC Hall and ended at the Santuario site. Walking together were the poor and the not-so-poor of the church as well as city officials. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte read the city ordinance declaring St. Vincent the "patron of the urban poor of Quezon City." (A city ordinance? Isn't this crossing the church-state demarcation line?)

The structure is, first and foremost, a place of worship. It is a gathering place. A bridge between people, between rich and poor, Father Atilano says. It will be a "listening church that becomes the voice of the unheard." To be built into it are programs to help the poor. These should form the centerpiece, if you ask me. The city government has promised to be involved in the programs. But I hope politicians keep their hands off or it will be messy.

The church is a combination of classic and modern, complemented by Filipino highlights. The history of the Philippine church and "preferential option for the poor" will be depicted on the stained glass windows and the walls. Noted artists are donating their talents for these. The church will seat about 2,000 people. There will even be a catwalk for stage presentations. At the ossuary in the basement, one can view a depiction of Filipino burial customs.

Why build the shrine in these difficult times? The primer answers: "Precisely because of the poverty we see around us, the shrine will serve as a visible representation of how one's life should be dedicated to the service of the poor, while at the same time serve as an inspiration for all Filipino Christians to be of service to those most in need."

Indeed, it is a sign of contradiction. I say this as a compliment.

If you want to be involved, contact Fr. Atilano Fajardo at afajardo@cmphilippines.org.ph or 9309387. Don't lose your cool if the woman who answers the phone asks: "From what company? And what are you going to talk about (with Father)?" I wanted to tell her I was an ailing prostitute who wanted to help.

* * *

Ongoing in Manila is the international convention of the United Evangelical Mission which is tackling globalization, human rights, the AIDS crisis, economic injustice and violence against women. The UEM is an organization of 34 member churches in Asia, Africa and Europe. High on its agenda is the negative effects of globalization.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Institutional memory

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

OVER LUNCH for the board of advisors of the Ayala Museum and foreign guests representing the institutions that helped with its inaugural exhibitions, those seated at the table of Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala discussed the need for an institutional memory. If Alzheimer's disease ravages a person's memory, slowly and steadily destroying their personality, the lack of an institutional memory results in a similar destruction of personality for organizations.

An institutional memory goes beyond who occupied what position doing certain duties at a particular time. It is more than the roster of officers and the programs on which they embarked during their period of service. Having an institutional memory is about principles and procedures: it is a memory bank that allows an organization to engage in problem solving with the help of past precedents, and with allegiance to the institutional ideals the organization represents.

When I was in government, my obsession was to build an institutional memory for Office of the President, which suffers from the amnesia of all things that came before Marcos; to make things worse, the manner in which the Palace is periodically purged of, and filled with, officials every time we have a new president guarantees a perpetual state of Alzheimer's for what should be one of our most enduring institutions. In truth, there was a strong sense of continuity—and thus, institutional efficiency—in the Office of the President until a combination of retirement of the veterans of previous administrations and the efforts of the dictatorship to erase the past destroyed any semblance of an institutional memory.

An office concerned with administration and the issuance of directives and other presidential documents should have an organized system that takes a look at what came before in order to ensure that new policies and directives are either in keeping with what came before, or are properly articulated in order to eliminate any chance the directives of today end up violating or contradicting the directives of yesterday, many of which are still in force. Often, great improvements in administration can be achieved by a process of consolidating previous executive issuances, which makes life easier for officials and permits them to serve the public and to do their duties in a more timely manner.

Under the present administration, this was accomplished in the case of the system of presidential awards. Executive issuances spanning a period of 50 years were consolidated in a new executive order, fortified with a more streamlined and sensible system for nominating and selecting awardees, and improved by a calibrated awards mechanism that finally brought presidential orders, medals and decorations up to par with those of other nations, particularly democratic republics. Finally, to maintain standards, enhance the prestige and quality of the awards, and to maximize government resources as well as open up a new income generating potential for the country, the manufacture of state awards was placed where it belongs: within the purview of the Bangko Sentral, which is now poised to aggressively bid for the manufacture of state awards not just for the Philippines, but for other countries. The quality of workmanship, aesthetic sense, and manufacturing competitiveness of the Bangko Sentral's mint division is that good.

A similar process was undertaken to reverse the sloppiness concerning the presidential and vice-presidential seals, enhancing their dignity and restoring the original intent of their design. Legal safeguards were finally put in place to minimize the tendency to bastardize and abuse these official symbols.

Much remains to be done in the Office of the President, though. A system for separating the data bank of memory—past executive issuances—and making such a data bank an integral part of a professionally run and organized research library and museum remains to be set up, although drafts for such an executive order are pending. The system as it stands is so inefficient that the Marcos papers, which the President ordered sent to the National Library for safekeeping (and more importantly, to make them finally available to researchers), have ended up rotting in boxes because control over them was reduced to a question of political turf, and the infighting turned into a nightmare for the executive secretary.

In private corporations, an institutional memory is necessary in order to preserve corporate identity, and again as a useful tool for problem solving. Modern management thrives on case studies, and an institutional memory establishes a system for preserving data and documents and interpreting them, in a manner that is potentially useful for future generations. It also institutionalizes something essential to the continuity not just of an institution but of civilization: teaching.

Peter Drucker, one of the leading minds of our time and a management guru, gained fame by writing a book on the operations of General Motors. His book remains a classic, and is as much history as it is a useful case study. His formidable intellect is reflected in his memoirs, "Adventures of a Bystander," which is really the treatment of his life and those of people he admires as a big case study in the transmission of learning. An institutional memory is like a library: ignored by many, used by some, but essential if knowledge, which allows us to make sense of the past, work things through in the present, and plan intelligently and rationally for the future, is to be possible at all.

So the question is, whether you're in government or the private sector, in academe or an NGO, what have you done to help build your institution's memory?

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Earth shoes

YOUNG BLOOD

Jean Reyes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TODAY I cleaned my earth shoes. And just as I hoped, memories of my stay in Los Baños came rushing back to me.

I've led a simple life, one with both triumphs and disappointments, but looking at them from the perspective of a shoe has led me to believe that life is how you look at it. As Forrest Gump said, you can tell who a person is from his shoes—what he's like, where he's going.

If a person has dirty shoes, does it automatically mean that he is a slob? Is he a perfectionist? Is he after comfort? If he is wearing new, seemingly unused shoes, does it mean he takes care of his things well or does it simply mean he doesn't go anywhere? (It could be that he has his own car, but that's another story.)

People go through a lot of shoes in their lifetime. I, for one, have used different kinds of shoes—from the shiny *charol* in elementary, to hi-cut rubber shoes, to gold-chained school shoes. A person's shoes seem to evolve with the one wearing them. Growing up means wanting peer acceptance. Have you ever noticed how school kids have pairs of shoes that look the same?

When I was young, my "choices" were what was bought for me. But the time came when I had to decide for myself between comfort and style, between quality and cost.

If there's one thing I dread, it's those high-heeled office pumps that have battered and bruised my feet. Maybe someday they will grow on me. In the meantime, I have to settle for shoes that are comfortable. Sometimes, it seems, one has to accept what one really is in order to find one's place in the world.

There are certain things I should look for in shoes if I intend to survive in this harsh world. First, I need shoes with spikes to protect me from the ridges of life, thick rubber soles so that I won't slip, and strong, sturdy heels to hold me upright. I need shoelaces to keep things in place and in perspective when I am lost. I also need comfortable, soft soles that tickle because a sense of humor helps me get through the most difficult days. Above all, I need flexible shoes that can make me bounce, because the true measure of a person's worth is not the bad things that happen but how one "bounces" back after falling down.

It probably wouldn't mean much to some people, but some things are worth pondering over. Like my favorite shoes. They are blue with streaks of pink. Feminine yet strong. They have traveled with me on many journeys through life. I've used them in college, and they have accompanied me to a mountain or two. I can say that somehow they helped me get to where I am now.

What exactly can other people tell from the shoes you're wearing?

Clean shoes are an indication of a healthy personality. So take care of your shoes. If you take the time to care for something as "unnoticeable" as shoes, it means that you take good care not only of yourself but of others as well.

Always wipe your shoes on a doormat. It shows good breeding and genuine concern for others. In a way, it indicates that you respect other people's feelings and that you are not the type who would barge uninvited into a home or a conversation.

Always put your best foot forward because first impressions can make or break you. One isn't always given a second chance.

Life is full of risks. If you fall in love with the first pair you lay your eyes on and can afford it, then buy it. It's okay to fall in love at first sight.

Sometimes all one needs to understand another person is to put oneself in the other's shoes. There have been times when I felt so frustrated by other people, only to realize after some reflection that if I were in their position, I would have done the exact same thing.

Don't be afraid to change your sole (soul, in life) for change is the only thing that is constant in life. You will never become a better person if your feet have never touched the ground and felt its hardness. Change can be good if you are willing to learn from it.

I still have a lot to learn in life. I've realized, though, that sometimes these lessons are not found only in profound ideas or big events but often in mundane, simple things like wearing shoes. I guess I just have to be more observant and discerning.

There are other mountains for me to climb, difficult roads to travel, cliffs to avoid. But I need not worry. I just need a big heart, a ready smile, and, of course, my beloved earth shoes.

Jean Reyes, 26, is graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños and works in an advertising and events agency.

THEY SAID

GSIS pork

"This must be the shortest liquidation of the largest cash advances in the entire country. Or is it Winston's pork barrel?"

—Rep. Rolex Suplico, reacting to GSIS president Winston Garcia's certification that he used the P5 million advances "in relation to or by reason" of his "position as president and general manager" of the Government Service Insurance System

Dearth of talent

"Preferably someone young. This would have been a breath of fresh air and would reflect a proactive leadership. Sadly, the message delivered by the appointment is that we have a dearth of qualified and willing executives."

—Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon, criticizing former Sen. Ramon Revilla's appointment as chair of the Public Estates Authority

Loss of face

"They only prejudiced themselves and lost face."

—Lawyer Homobono Daza, expressing surprise over the Magdalo mutineers' apology

Elected idiots

"We are creating a political system of idiots with money."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago saying senators now with so-so credentials get elected because they have money

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Sports for health and fitness, not just for medals and honors

SEN. Loi Estrada gamely executes a few strokes with her badminton racket, begins to exhibit signs of a heart attack and is rushed to a hospital. This incident gives us reason to reorient our thinking on sports as a national enterprise—not only for winning medals and earning international prestige, but more so as a strategy for promoting health and physical fitness.

The remarkable rise of Australia to the top of international sports may be traced to a campaign—aptly called: "Sports—Be In It!"—launched two decades ago to get people to participate in sports. It was a take-off from a program started earlier in Canada to create public support for the hosting of the Montreal Olympics, called "Participaction," a term coined to connote active participation in physical fitness and sports activities. The Philippines has not been lacking in such well-meaning campaign.

The Department of Health, for example, during the Ramos administration, launched a fitness program called: "Hataw Bayan Hataw!" which consisted of a series of aerobic exercises. Two years ago, this campaign was supplemented with "Mag-Wellness Lifestyle Tayo!" The problem is, the DOH, and the Philippine Sports Commission (which is mandated to promote physical fitness and mass-based sports) have not considered adopting the strategy which proved successful in Canada and Australia.

Instead of looking at sports primarily as a means to raise the level of physical fitness, health and well-being of the citizenry, sports is being viewed by the government and our sports leaders in a very myopic prism: as a quest for a first Olympic gold medal.

With the continued decline of our country's performance in international sports, it is time to change strategy and adopt what has proven to be successful in other countries. First and foremost is to change public appreciation of sports—as a potent medium for promoting physical fitness and health. Medical health and science prescribe physical activity as a form of preventive medicine against metabolic diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and heart diseases.

If our campaign in sports is directed at encouraging active participation in sports among the citizenry for health and well-being, we will not only produce healthy and fit citizens but also athletes who will win the medals and honors we want so badly.

—APARICIO H. MEQUI,
president,
Philippine Association
of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE),
docmequi@hotmail.com

Leading by bad example

IN HER ardent desire to impose new taxes, President Macapagal-Arroyo has given the world the impression that we are a nation of beggars and freeloaders. Beggars because of the "forced monetary contributions" her administration solicits from businessmen. Of course, no Filipino entrepreneur would dare turn down the "request" lest he incurs the ire of the government which would be catastrophic for his business.

I say freeloaders because she chose to hobnob with world leaders in Brunei during the wedding of Sultan Bolkiah's son, even if another person—some reports say Bolkiah; others say businessman Pepito Alvarez—provided the luxurious Lear jet for the trip. I mean, our President should have just courteously begged off from traveling to Brunei, and let her spin doctors craft excuses acceptable to Bolkiah.

President Arroyo should lead by example by forgoing trips and other expenditures, when the country does not stand to benefit from them. It's a shame when she lets other people spend money for utterly unnecessary and unproductive trips, like attending a wedding.

How can the President impress upon us the need to tighten our belt, and to pay more taxes when she and many of those in government are not leading by example? She's not at all convincing, even in her attempt to force through the tax on text by giving it such exotic tags like "windfall profit," "excise tax," and now "computer education tax."

What has our country come to?

—MA. VICTORIA VERGARA,
6 Kamagong St.,
Madera Homes I,
Barangay San Roque,
Cainta, Rizal

Contraceptives are mere palliatives

I GREATLY appreciate Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit for taking time to explain the Department of Health's approach to population development. (PDI, 9/20/04) I cannot but wholly agree with him, and there are many friends of mine in the health care sector who support his stand.

May I also add that distributing artificial contraceptives is really a palliative. If our government and other private entities are willing to spend millions for the distribution of contraceptive medicines and devices, they might as well rechannel their money to address the country's development challenges: countryside development and livelihood opportunities.

In the Visayas and Mindanao, there are huge tracts of undeveloped lands and the farmers and fishermen need efficient infrastructure to send their produce/products to the towns and cities. Now if only the people in the provinces have adequate economic opportunities right where they are, then they need not go and congest the big cities.

Metro Manila only gives an impression of overpopulation but if you look down South, there are lots of idle lands that could be developed if only the powers-that-be are sincere about uplifting the conditions of our poor.

—ANNIE Z. NISCE,
45 Ma. Clara St.,
Dona Aurora Subd., Iloilo City

Better deal for Pinoy doctors urged to stop migration

THERE is a shortage of medical doctors right now in the Philippines. By 2010 the shortfall could reach a crisis point of more than 18,000.

But many Filipino physicians are working to migrate to the United States as nurses. The overriding reason is economic survival. Nothing to do with professional self-fulfillment as medical doctors. But shifting gears—to being a nurse—is also enough to shore up their professional commitment to help the sick—not in the Philippines but in the United States and other countries in the world. Sad and unfair. But then, who says life is fair?

The United States needs more trained nurses. What is more trained than a medical doctor who studies for many years wanting to be a nurse?

To be a doctor may be to stand at the top of the health professionals' totem pole. But the stomach needs are more compelling. In our country, a physician's ability to earn a decent living is stymied by our economy. For many doctors, as well as highly trained Filipino professionals, grappling with the economic realities in life is almost a daily grind.

As nurses in the United States, they would earn handsomely. Since it is a lot easier to secure a visa (and a green card, thus a step closer to American citizenship)—plus, of course, the prospective lucrative pay—the attraction is hard to resist.

But there is a downside to this. Poor Filipinos in many rural areas will remain deprived of medical attention and care.

Our government should do something to keep our medical school graduates in our country. It should offer them respectable incomes and opportunities to provide a decent future for their families. Our physicians-turned nurses cannot be blamed entirely.

—DR. PATRICIO R. MAMOT,
New York, USA

'Must do' priority for Manila

IN A HISTORIC city sorely bereft of nature parks and clean air, it is truly worthy to take note of the Winner Foundation's and Araceli Dans' noble efforts to preserve Arroceros Park.

Manila, being the nation's capital, must be the showcase of our beautiful country. Thus, preserving little of what we have left in centuries-old flora should be a "must do" priority of both the city government and its citizenry.

I realize that Mayor Lito Atienza has made great strides in sprucing up our capital. However, maintaining and further enhancing the vestiges of our historic past, particularly in the realm of both nature and the environment, should likewise be given utmost attention for the sake of the present and future generations of Manileños who surely will truly appreciate what used to be and hopefully, once again, would be a fine, livable city.

May the Winner Foundation's and Dans' tribe increase!

—JAMES G. MATTI,
james_matti94618@yahoo.com

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Question of the Week

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No proof of JI-MILF ties, says DND chief

THERE is no proof the largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines has active ties with regional Jemaah Islamiyah militants despite military reports of some links, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said yesterday.

But Cruz, a lawyer appointed to the defense portfolio last month as the government and the rebels inch closer to resuming peace talks, said a small segment within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) might be supporting JI operatives.

"As a lawyer, I always look at concrete evidence," he told Reuters in an interview. "So far, we have not found any proof.

There may be some sightings of JI and this is being further verified and investigated." JI, linked to al-Qaida by Asian and Western governments, was blamed for the October 2002 bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali that killed nearly 200 people. The group was also linked to a deadly bomb blast this month outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta.

Suspicion that the MILF has provided refuge and training to JI members is one of the main obstacles to the success of formal peace talks with the government that are due to restart in Malaysia next month after a three-year break.

The 35-year separatist conflict has killed 120,000 people, impoverished the southern island of Mindanao and scared away foreign investment.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged to forge peace deals with the MILF and communist rebels by the end of the new six-year term she won in the May elections.

Cruz said the government believed there is a small group within the MILF that may be opposed to the peace talks and may have links with foreign militant groups.

Security analysts have voiced similar concerns, warning that more radical elements within the MILF may break away and keep fighting the government if a peace deal is signed.

"We will take it step by step because the first step is really to reach a peace settlement with the bulk of the MILF," Cruz said.

The military has said there are about 40 JI operatives hiding and training with local Muslim rebels inside MILF jungle bases in central Mindanao. A government report said the last batch of JI members finished their training early this year. *Reuters*

DOH opens door-to-door family planning drive

From page A1

"With this campaign," Dayrit said, "we aim to reach those who really need the services but cannot come to the health centers located in the towns and urban areas due to the remoteness of the areas where they live."

The National Statistics Office's 2002 survey showed that around two million (or 20.6 percent of) married women—wanted to space their children or not have any more, but did not practice family planning.

According to the Commission on Population, which is spearheading the campaign with the DOH, Filipino women generally want only two children, but the fertility rate among married women translates to 3.5 to four kids.

"If these women had knowledge of and access to family planning methods, they could ... have the number of children that they want," PopCom executive director Tomas Osias said.

With the forthcoming drive, Dayrit said, couples who opt for artificial methods will be referred to rural health centers where they can get free pills and condoms.

But the country's supply could run out in three years. The United States Agency for International Development is phasing out its program of donating contraceptives to developing countries, and the government has refused to purchase them for free distribution.

No problem

Condom shortage is no cause for panic, as far as the Catholic church is concerned. It has vigorously opposed the use of contraceptives, either for family planning purposes or as protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

In fact, a Church official said yesterday, condoms did little more than encourage prostitution.

Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz issued a strongly worded statement warning against taking the counsel of Sen. Mechai Viravaidya of Thailand, who is in the country promoting the condom as a defense against HIV/AIDS.

"Condoms do not necessarily prevent the spread of AIDS," Cruz said. "Condoms, in fact, are an invitation to prostitution. And prostitution spreads AIDS. The 'Condom King' is wrong."

Mechai has been given the title for his practice of giving away condoms wherever he goes. Speaking in various forums in Manila, including discussions with the DOH, Mechai has said contraceptive use, plus massive education, dramatically reduced Thailand's HIV/AIDS infection rate.

At the peak of 150,000 new cases a year, HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death in Thailand a few years back. The rate of infection has since gone down to 19,000 annually.

'Deception'

Unconvinced, Cruz insisted that in countries where condoms were sold "very cheap" or distributed for free, HIV/AIDS continued to spread. "The deception that condoms automatically eliminate Aids is what precisely spreads the disease," the bishop said.

The DOH HIV/AIDS registry shows only 2,121 cases in the Philippines since the first case was reported in 1984. Dayrit admitted that the actual number could be as high as 6,000.

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Bishops to monitor barangay 'dev't fun'

From page A1

Quoting the COA, Nassa said the IRA was likewise used for "observation trainings" in foreign countries, which were "actually junkets."

The World Bank has estimated that corruption is costing the Philippine government $47 million (P2.6 billion) a year.

Action points

Tasked to lead the bishops' campaign, Nassa laid down several action points for IRA Watch:

- Monitor the amount of IRA released to a barangay.
- Participate in the crafting of the local development plan and demand its publication.
- Demand that IRA-funded projects be listed in publicly available reports.
- Monitor the implementation of IRA-funded projects.
- Know the other components of IRA spending.
- Initiate legal action against erring barangay officials.

The national secretariat also called on basic ecclesiastical communities in every parish to help in the monitoring of IRA spending and lifestyle of barangay officials.

At a "strategic point," Nassa said, it hoped to expand the campaign "to include LGUs at all levels."

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Bataan newsman killed ...

From page A1

country since democracy was restored after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986 and the seventh fatal attack on a journalist this year.

An Agence France-Presse report quoted police as saying they were investigating whether the killing was related to the victim's work.

Binungcal started as a commercial photographer plying the row of nightclubs in Barangay Sta. Rosa, which used to be known as the town's red light district. He then became the manager of a local massage parlor.

He worked as a correspondent for the tabloid Bulgar and later transferred to Remate in the early 1990s. He covered the police beat and wrote crime stories for Remate and the local paper Mt. Samat Forum, where he was its former editor.

Binungcal's wife Maribel said she had no any idea about the motive behind the murder.

"*Hindi naman kasi siya nagsasalita tungkol sa problema niya, kung meron man* (He was not the type who would talk about his problems, if there was any)," she told the INQUIRER.

The couple has six children; the youngest is 3 years old.

Police said Binungcal had been to nearby Balanga City and was on his way home at about 4 a.m. when he was shot. Police said the killer was waiting near a store at the Sta. Rosa flea market.

Left at midnight

Maribel said her husband left their house at midnight and said he would just be in the neighborhood.

Local reporters said that before the attack, Binungcal had been inactive in the media and was rarely seen covering events at the provincial capitol and in Camp Tolentino, the provincial police headquarters.

The Philippines is considered as among the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police and justice department to work with the media to stop a spate of attacks on journalists.

Unsolved

Many of the killings remain unsolved. In most cases, those tagged as suspects are local warlords or policemen in rural areas where they wield great influence. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP*

Band plays, sings different tune

From page A1

panied by a magician and female dancers from a Jesuit university. Then comes Habal's pitch to the students to consider a career as a priest.

"There has been a remarkable decline in the youth's interest to join the priesthood," said Estelito Villegas of the San Carlos Formation Center, a seminary in Metro Manila. "Through these activities, we hope to catch their attention."

With Asia's largest Catholic country suffering a shortfall of about 25,000 priests, various seminaries and religious orders are using creative marketing to attract young men.

Ideally, there should be one priest for every 2,000 people in a parish. Now, the ratio has gone up to one priest per 15,000 people in a parish.

Materialism and sex scandals in the Church at home and abroad have contributed to the decline in the number of young priests, said Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle.

Tagle, chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Doctrine of Faith, said the problem was aggravated by the migration of Filipino priests to other countries where shortages are even worse.

Some 800 priests leave each year to work in parts of Europe and North America with large Catholic populations.

Exodus

"We are sending Filipino priests to Spain," Tagle said of the country that brought Christianity to the Philippines in the 16th century with the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer in the service of the Spanish crown.

"While other countries are closing seminaries, we still have a lot of candidates," he added. "We need priests here. But in our poverty, we share."

A newspaper commentator on religion said the migration of priests to other countries may be likened to the diaspora of eight million Filipino workers who have sought greener pastures overseas. But some seminarians disputed such views.

Cesar Mallari, who is due to complete his theology studies next year, said Church servants should not regard their work as a way to earn a living.

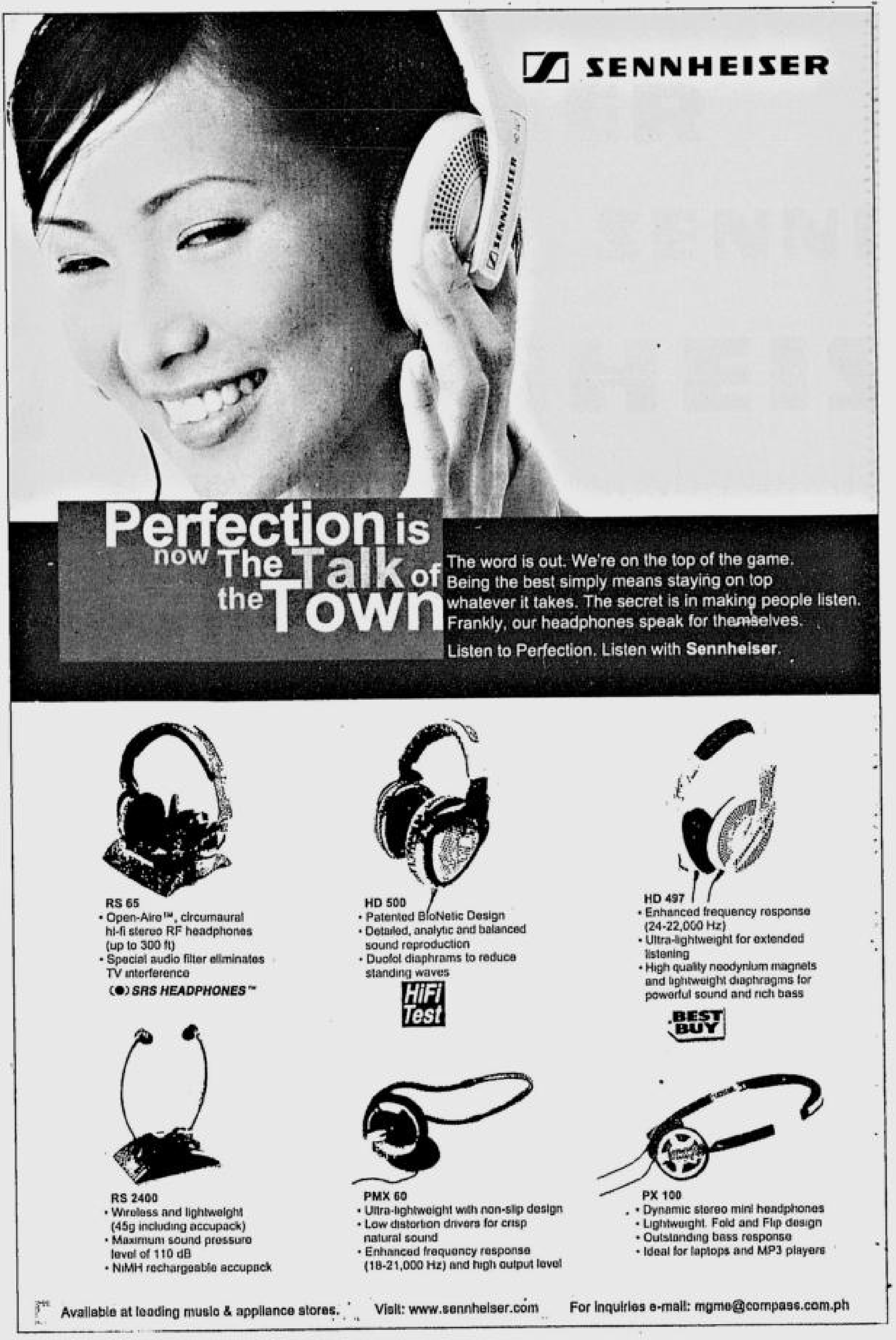
A vocation, not profession

"It is not good," Mallari said. "It is looking at priesthood as a profession and not as a vocation."

Church leaders say the number of priests has not kept pace with the rapidly growing Philippine population, boosting the need for creative recruitment techniques.

Colorful leaflets promoting the benefits of the priesthood have been distributed to Catholic schools and parishes across the nation of 82 million. The Church has also ventured onto the Internet to attract teenagers to the pulpit.

"Who will replace the old ones if we don't go out there and encourage the graduating high school students to consider the vocation?" said Villegas of the San Carlos Formation Center. "For all you know, some have the calling and need to hear it from us." *Reuters*



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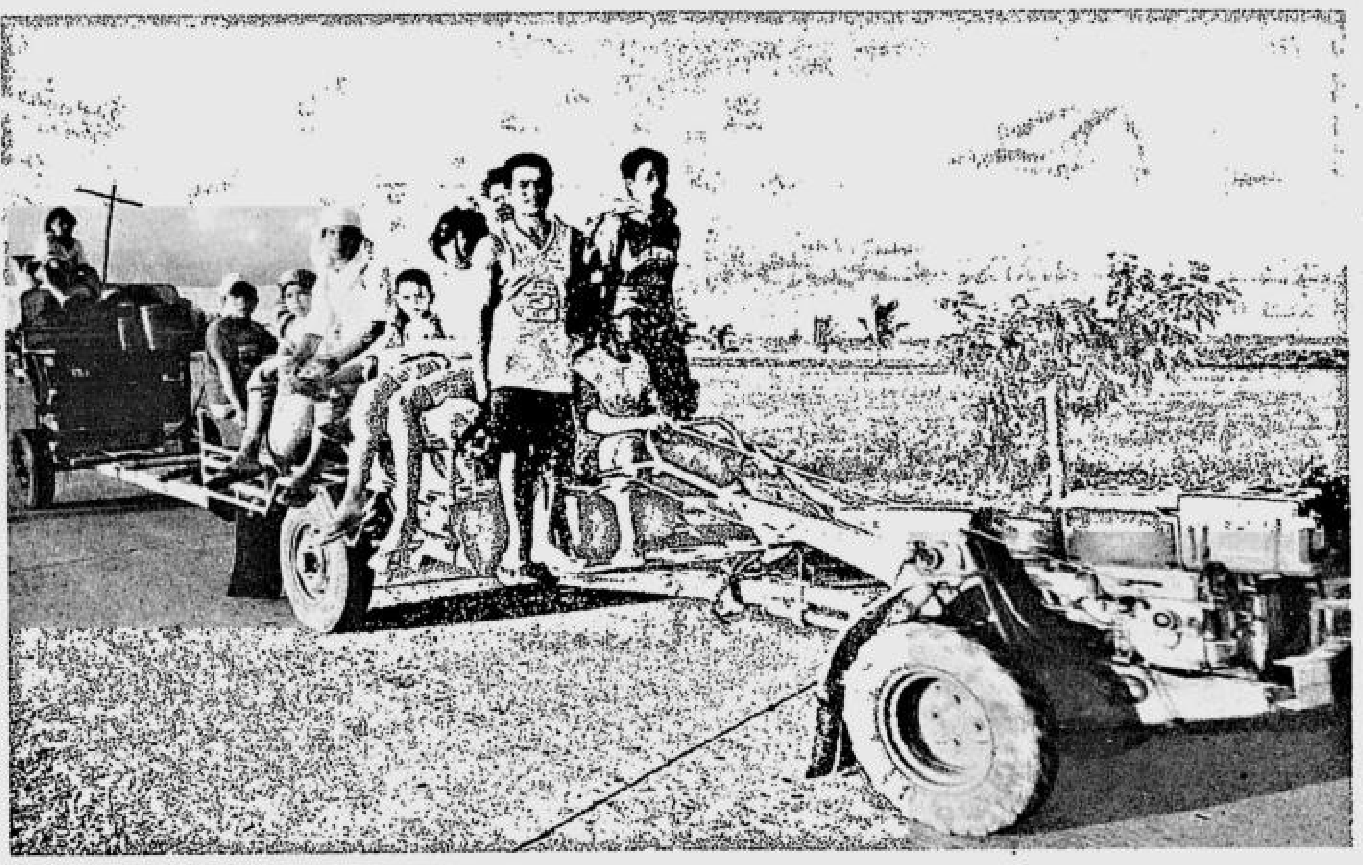

SLOW RIDE

AFP

Farm hands ride a tractor, a common sight in many rural areas in the country where the few means of transportation include those that are used for tilling the land.

4 kidnap suspects fall in raid in Cavite town

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested four suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom group, including a former Army sergeant, in a series of operations in Bacoor, Cavite.

Police said yesterday Jose Villamor, 24; Aaron Toribio, 33, a former Scout Ranger based in Basilan and Sulu; Analyn Santos, 27; and Danilo Perpetua, 31, were arrested in their alleged hideout on Theresa corner in Addas Subdivision in Barangay Molino, Bacoor.

The four were members of the Waray-Waray kidnapping gang, said Supt. Mario Sanga, Calabarzon chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The group had kidnapped two Chinese-Filipino businessmen about two months ago, said Sanga.

The raid on the group's alleged hideout came after a warrant was issued by Judge Caesar Mangobrang of the Imus Regional Trial Court.

In a separate raid, police arrested Santos and Perpetua also in Bacoor.

Sanga said aside from kidnapping, the group was also involved in selling guns and in bank robberies.

He said the arrest came after one of his men bought an unlicensed .45 cal. pistol from the group.

"That was when we verified that the group was into gunrunning so we promptly applied for a search warrant," said Sanga.

He said evidence and witnesses later led to information that the group was also involved in kidnapping.

Police found guns, ammunition, police and security guard uniforms and a registration paper of a Mitsubishi Pajero owned by Richardson Ngo, whom the group kidnapped in Tanza, Cavite on Aug. 7.

Sanga said the suspects use uniforms of the Traffic Management Group in kidnappings and other crimes.

Richardson had identified a Nokia 6600 phone recovered from Perpetua as one of the four cellular phones that his family gave as ransom to the group.

Sanga said the group was also believed to be behind four other kidnappings in Manila this year. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MILF open to autonomy, says envoy

COTABATO CITY—Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem said it was likely that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would settle for an autonomous government in exchange for ending the country's decades-old Moro rebellion.

Adem told reporters here Sunday that during his meetings with the MILF, its top leaders have indicated that they would accept autonomy as a political settlement.

Malacañang has been dangling the package of an expanded autonomy to get the MILF to sign a peace treaty.

The resetting of the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was deliberately done according to its proponents because the government was optimistic that a final peace deal could be signed next year, which could pave the way for MILF participation in the rescheduled elections.

Earlier reports said the MILF is already opposing the package although the government has yet to submit an official proposal.

"It's not true," Adem said of the report.

He said based on his meetings with MILF chair Hadji Murad Ibrahim, the MILF is now open to a settlement of the 34-year conflict through limited self-rule.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said although the MILF is open to a peaceful settlement of the Bangsamoro rebellion, there was no discussion between Murad and Adem about autonomy as an option.

"I was there. What was discussed was the deployment of the International Monitoring Team," he said.

Kabalu said he believes Adem had been misquoted.

Libya is a core member of the 56-state Organization of the Islamic Conference and was instrumental for the peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1996.

When asked about possible feud between the MILF and the MNLF when both groups are accommodated in the ARMM, Adem said: "That will be up to the MNLF and the MILF to agree on as brothers."

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, also the MNLF secretary general, was cynical about a government-MILF peace agreement in the near future, "unless the MILF would ignore the possibility of experiencing the same predicament that we (in the MNLF) have gone through and are still facing today."

"I don't think they would run that risk," he said.

Sema said the government still owed the MNLF the full implementation of phase two of the Sept. 2, 1996 peace agreement.

He said the enactment by Congress of Republic Act 9054 to expand and add more power to the ARMM did not really empower the ARMM.

"Look, has ARMM ever had true elections?" Sema asked.

Kabalu said a political settlement could come after several key issues had been ironed out. *Nash B. Maulana with reports from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palace tells Isabela gov to answer case on workers' relief

ILAGAN, Isabela—Malacañang has ordered Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca to answer the administrative complaint filed against her by eight department heads of the Isabela provincial government whom she relieved in July.

The order was issued by Manuel Gaite, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs, on Sept. 8 after the eight officials filed an administrative complaint for abuse of authority and oppression against Padaca.

The eight Isabela officials, most of them in government service for at least 20 years, also asked the regional Civil Service Commission (CSC) to intercede and order Padaca to reinstate them to their positions.

The eight officials are provincial assessor Guillermo Baretto, provincial cooperative officer Carlito Tumaliuan, provincial planning and development officer Nestor Salvador, provincial agriculturist Danilo Tumamao, provincial accountant Pete Gerald Javier, provincial engineer Medardo Aggari, provincial health officer Dr. Rosa Rita Mariano and provincial board secretary Manuel Santos.

They earlier sued Padaca at four regional trial courts for grave abuse of discretion.

In their petition with the CSC, the officials invoked the constitutional provision that "no officer or employee shall be removed or suspended except for cause provided by law."

They said their relief as department heads cost them their allowances prescribed by two provincial board resolutions.

Padaca said she would answer the charges.

"I want to work with people who I (trust). That is a management discretion," she said.

Gaite asked Padaca to submit her answer to the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Tumamao, who has been in government service for 26 years, assailed Padaca for favoring her relatives whom she appointed when she assumed office.

He said Padaca issued service vehicles to her sister, executive assistant Alma Bella Padaca-Castillo, and her brother and relatives who are working as her confidential employees.

"It is quite lamentable that some provincial offices are lacking in government vehicles and here comes the governor issuing government cars to her own sister, relatives and friends. Where is austerity there? Is that equitable and justifiable to the public?" he asked.

Salvador, the longest-serving government servant at 29 years, said "the moral, mental, physical and emotional pressure" against them by Padaca has continued since their relief from their positions on July 20.

Salvador said they were made to stay inside an office "without anything to do and without any directives from her (Padaca)." *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Troops claim they captured 17-yr-old reb

DAVAO CITY—Government troops captured a 17-year-old member of the New People's Army (NPA) on Thursday morning following an encounter Wednesday night in Pantukan town, Compostela Valley.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, military spokesperson for Southeastern Mindanao, said elements of the 404th Infantry Brigade arrested the young rebel in Sitio Lantawan, Barangay Napnapan in Pantukan while he was about to escape.

Adriatico said the rebel, a resident of Libudon in Mati, Davao Oriental, is now at the 404th IB headquarters based in Mawab, Compostela Valley.

The young rebel allegedly told the military that he was recruited by a certain Ka Bencio last year while he was still 16 years old.

He was quoted as saying he was promised good pay and education if he joined the rebel group.

"This is indeed a clear violation of the rights of children," said Adriatico.

The military has accused the NPA of recruiting minors. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Military denies US troops' involvement in clash with Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday rejected an Associated Press report that said American forces backed up Filipino soldiers during an operation against the Abu Sayyaf in Patikul, Sulu on Monday.

"There were no American soldiers involved. In fact no American soldier is in Sulu right now," Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga told the INQUIRER.

"All I said was there was an encounter, I haven't mentioned anything about Americans involved in the operation," Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Task Force Comet overseeing the Sulu operations, said.

Dema-ala, who was quoted in the AP report, said there could have been a mix up because he was also asked if there was an ongoing training involving American servicemen and Filipino soldiers here.

"I said there are American forces training our troops here but I did not say they helped us in Sulu," he said.

Senga said there was nothing special in the Patikul operation, which resulted in the death of at least one Marine and the wounding of eight other soldiers.

He said the soldiers were conducting a regular operation in Barangay Pansul when they chanced upon a large group of bandits.

"It was a thirty-minute firefight. We believe we also inflicted (sic) an undetermined number of casualties against the bandits," Senga said.

Meanwhile, Senga reported that an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader was killed when his group clashed with armed militiamen in Pata town, also in Sulu on Monday.

He did not specify how the clash between the group of Patao village official Almudzni Amil and Abu leader Misuara Amilan started.

But Senga said two other bandits were killed in the clash.

"Amilan's wife and a nephew were also wounded in the firefight," Senga said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New bridges now finished in Pangasinan, Mindanao

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has recently completed two bridges in Luzon and Mindanao.

In an announcement, the DPWH said the P16.4-million Malanay-Tuliao bridge in Pangasinan and the P37-million Dipolo Gamay bridge in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur have been completed this month.

More bridge projects are scheduled for completion this year, according to Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez.

"Building bridges is an important means of supporting the administration's poverty alleviation program," Soriquez was quoted as saying in a press statement.

He said the DPWH bridge projects also complements President Macapagal-Arroyo's program to improve agriculture by providing access to products and markets.

The Malanay-Tuliao bridge will link the municipalities of Sta. Barbara, Mangaldan and Mapandan in Pangasinan.

The Dipolo Gamay bridge will improve transportation in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur, Misamis Oriental and Zamboanga del Norte, according to the DPWH statement.

It added that the Bunawan bridge in Agusan del Sur is near completion.

The bridge, Soriquez said, was designed to withstand floods and ease the transport of agricultural products.

LTFRB under fire for fare hike, row on taxi meters

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) chair Ma. Elena Bautista was irked upon learning that leaders of a consumer group in Cebu were seeking her ouster following her announcement that flag down rates for taxis would increase next month.

But it wasn't only the Cebu consumer group that was angered by the LTFRB's latest move to adjust taxi rates.

In a statement, the Philippine Taximeters Association (PTA), a group of owners of shops that manufacture taxi meters, also expressed disgust over the LTFRB's and Department of Trade and Industry's guidelines accrediting shops and technicians to calibrate taxi meters nationwide.

Rio Espiritu, head of the PTA, said only taxi meter shops with at least a year's experience should be accredited as qualified to calibrate taxi meters.

"Both agencies have overlooked the track record of taxi meter shops that have operated for more than 10 years," said Espiritu.

Bautista clarified that only the taxis in Metro Manila will be affected by the adjustment in the flag down rates from P25 to P30.

"Let them (seek for my ouster) ... you know they're making conclusion for that even if they don't know what's happening," Bautista said.

Manuel Iway, former Land Transportation Office director for Central Visayas and now legal counsel of the Association of Concerned Commuters and Consumers (AC3), said they would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to relieve Bautista from her post for favoring the taxi operators and drivers to the detriment of the commuters.

Souie Mercado, AC3 president, urged Bautista to rectify her statements, or else their group would demand her ouster.

Iway and Mercado said Bautista should not make any announcement on increases in taxi fare in the wake of the public hearings being conducted by the LTFRB in Central Visayas for the petition for a fare adjustment filed by Metro Cebu Taxi Operators Association (MCTOA).

The MCTOA asked the LTFRB to adjust the flag down rates to P30 for the first 500 meters and additional P2.50 from P2.00 for every 300 kilometers.

During the public hearing on Thursday, the AC3 formally submitted its opposition to the increase.

The LTFRB regional office scheduled another hearing on Oct. 5 because MCTOA had to answer the opposition filed by AC3.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Meet Mr. 'Nice Prisoner Around'

By Marlon Ramos and Madonna Virola

FOR 10 days, Jose Cesar Serrano, together with several human rights activicts, searched for his brother Eduardo, an alleged communist leader in Mindoro, who had been reported missing after he was presented by military officials to the media at Fort Bonifacio on May 3.

Police and Army intelligence men arrested Eduardo "Eddik" Serrano, along with two women, in Lipa City on May 2.

"We couldn't find him in any military camp or jail in Manila and nearby provinces. We sought the help of the media but nothing happened. We feared that he was already killed," Jose Cesar narrated.

On May 12, Jose Cesar learned that his brother was jailed in Calapan City. His group immediately left for Oriental Mindoro. A few hours after reaching the city, he was reunited with Kuya Eddik, the eldest in their brood of 13, at the provincial jail.

The relief was short-lived, however. Jose Cesar found that his brother was charged with rebellion, murder and frustrated murder, with no bail recommended.

As soon as they left the jail, Jose Cesar resolved to do everything to get his brother out.

Jail life

Eddik, 51, now on his fifth month of captivity, would not be subdued. In a letter dated Sept. 1, he related not only his ordeal but his ways of coping with the situation as well.

"In a few days, I befriended a lot of inmates and jail guards," he said. Fellow Bicolanos in jail helped him adjust to his new life.

He said he prepared himself to be fit psychologically and physically. He regularly reads newspapers, magazines and books.

He gives acupuncture treatment to inmates and their friends and relatives, as well as the guards and warden. He has proposed the setting up of a health unit composed of volunteer inmates who will be trained by nurses and doctors.

"The image of a murderer which the military wants to portray of me would soon be proven false. Instead, people here may be looking for the 'nice prisoner around,'" he said.

Eddik devotes at least an hour daily for early morning exercises. Tai-chi sessions are held on weekends by a volunteer from the National Bureau of Investigation.

He avoids vices and unhealthy food, and aspires to be fit for another 10-20 years.

He has proposed several livelihood projects for the inmates and residents of Calapan, relying on his training in agriculture, especially animal science.

"I have also initiated the formation of a paralegal team that will assist inmates on their cases, especially those coming from the basic masses and could not afford a lawyer," Eddik said. The team will translate documents read in court in Tagalog for greater understanding, he added.

Arrest

Eddik is allowed to watch local and world events on cable TV.

"In case I don't come out of this alive, I make it a point that I always serve the people to the best of my abilities," he said.

Eddik said he left the mountains of Mindoro in April to meet with leaders of the National Democratic Front to discuss details in the operation of the Joint Monitoring Committee in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement for the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

EDUARDO Serrano who, according to the military, is communist leader Rogelio Villanueva MADONNA T. VIROLA

The agenda also included human rights violations documented in Mindoro since April 2001, which had been attributed to the presence of more than nine Army battalions and special units on the island.

During his trip back to Mindoro, Eddik and two women, identified by the military as New People's Army members, were arrested.

The NDF panel in the peace negotiations, through Fidel Agcaoili, informed the government panel of Serrano's arrest and demanded his immediate release, saying he was covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees.

The military failed to present him until his brother's group found him in jail on May 13.

'Political detainee'

In Eddik's case, the government breached its commitment to the peace talks with the NDF, said Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador during a forum at the University of the Philippines Los Baños in Laguna on Sept. 11.

The peace process with the communists may be fruitless again as the government continues to "criminalize" political offenses, Virador said. This is an outright violation of human rights, he said.

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, national chair of the human rights group Karapatan, said Serrano, as the recognized NDF leader in Mindoro, should be considered a political dissident and not an ordinary criminal.

"The cases filed against him are political in nature. As such, all criminal charges against him and other political prisoners should be dropped and incorporated in the charge of rebellion," she said.

Enriquez also noted that the subject of the arrest warrants, as admitted by Serrano's arresting officers, was a certain Rogelio Villanueva, which made it "very clear that his seizure alone was illegal."

Immunity from arrest

She argued that as an NDF leader, Eddik had immunity from arrest as stipulated under the Jasig, which was agreed upon by the NDF and government panels during the first round of peace talks in February.

Serrano and his group traveled to Manila to confer with NDF chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili on the alleged rising military atrocities in Mindoro, according to Enriquez. The subject was one of the topics in the next round of the talks.

"This is a clear case of violation of the Jasig. Serrano went out of his area to participate in the peace process. Otherwise, he would not be caught," she claimed.

In a letter to the NDF, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III denied that the government violated the Jasig. He said the agreement covered only "security guarantees" and not immunity from the legal process of the country.

As such, he said, the Jasig did not include guarantees from arrest warrants.

Bello further said the NDF failed to notify the government panel that they had consulted with Serrano in line with the peace talks.

Criminal offender

Despite testimonies from Eddik's relatives and friends, military and police officials in Mindoro stood by their statement that "Eduardo Serrano" was just the nom de guerre of Villanueva, the alleged highest-ranking Communist Party leader in the province.

He is no political dissident but a common criminal, according to Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, director of the Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) Police Office.

Lapinid said Villanueva was arrested along with Josephine Joy Mendoza and Rizza Mesana.

"The militants are saying that Villanueva is not Eduardo Serrano so he could get away with all his criminal liabilities. But our evidence shows that he is really Villanueva. Anyway, they will have a chance to present their evidence in the proper court," he said.

Senior Supt. Victorino Caragan, Mimaropa police director for operations, admitted that they have yet to do a background check on Villanueva's "real identity."

"All we have are records of his activities as head of the CPP-NDF-NPA in Mindoro. As far as we're concerned, he is really Rogelio Villanueva," Caragan said.

Lapinid said Villanueva was arrested by virtue of three warrants issued by Roxas, Oriental Mindoro Judge Vicente Leido and Judges Mario dela Cruz and Eligio Arboleda of Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro, for rebellion, murder and frustrated murder, respectively.

Caragan said they had also filed cases against Villanueva as Eduardo Serrano for various criminal offenses, including kidnap-for-ransom.

Police and military intelligence men further identified Villanueva as a regular member of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee, code-named Ka Makling and Ka Bucag.

No 'political detainee'

Lapinid laughed off Karapatan's contention that Villanueva should be considered a political detainee. He said Villanueva and those arrested for ambuscades of government troops were no different from common criminals. He then countered Enriquez's statement that there are political prisoners in the country.

He said it was just natural for the police and military to arrest individuals who are supposedly breaking the law.

"We are enforcing the rule of law. Serrano and his likes are being incarcerated not because they have different political beliefs but because they committed violations of our laws," Lapinid said.

He cited an incident when NPA rebels ambushed newly trained police officers in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, a few months back. Four policemen and a civilian driver were killed.

"What is so political about killing police personnel and innocent civilians?" he asked.

Lapinid said the communist leadership was agog over freeing Villanueva because he was a great loss to local communists.

"The NPA in Mindoro is now crippled because they don't have a leader," he said. Lapinid also insisted that they are religiously following the CARHRIHL in their gun battles with the NPA. He said members of the Mimaropa had been attending lectures about the agreement.

Serrano appeals for a stop to the "criminalization" of political offenses. "Free the political detainees in the spirit of the ongoing peace talks between the GRP and NDFP," he said.

Bicolano war hero finally given full military honors

THE BICOLANOS had been commemorating the bravery of Gen. Simeon A. Ola for the past 101 years, but it was only on Sept. 25 that President Macapagal-Arroyo gave full military honors to the last Filipino revolutionary general to surrender to the Americans during his re-interment at the Ola Park in Guinobatan, Albay.

Ms Arroyo marched with local executives and Ola's descendants from the Our Lady of Assumption Church to the Ola Park, and stayed under the sun for about 10 minutes until the hero's remains were placed in a narra box inside the monument.

The re-interment ceremony was also attended by provincial and municipal executives, high-ranking military and police officers, priests, students and thousands of Bicolanos.

Ola, a native of Guinobatan, is recognized as the last Bicolano general to surrender to American forces on Sept. 25, 1903, one year and five months after Gen. Miguel Malvar yielded.

He also became the first mayor of Guinobatan, serving for two consecutive terms.

Exhumed

Before the re-interment, Ola's remains were exhumed from the town's public cemetery and brought to the regional police headquarters at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola in Legazpi City (the camp was named after him in June 1991), and then to the provincial capitol for public viewing and vigil.

The municipal government spent at least P250,000 for the renovation of Ola Park at the heart of Guinobatan.

Mayor Juan Garcia said Ola contributed immensely to the attainment of independence from the Spanish and US colonial forces.

With the recognition and honors given by Ms Arroyo, the Filipinos will revere Ola as one of the country's greatest heroes that they should remember and be proud of.

Bishop Lucilo Quiambao of the Diocese of Legazpi said in his homily that the love of Ola for the Filipinos was worthy because the long-awaited freedom was attained.

Ola Day

Garcia said he would ask the President to declare and celebrate Sept. 2 (birth date of Ola) instead of Sept. 25 (the day of his surrender) as a non-working holiday in Albay.

He said he also planned to put up a mausoleum where Ola's sword, *tambuli* or *budyong* (horn) with engravings of the Katipunan triangular emblem and the Filipino flag, uniform and other personal belongings would be displayed for public viewing.

Ola's granddaughter, Hameedah Erlinda Ola Kasan, said with teary eyes that the unexpected ceremony of full military honors was a dream come true and made her family and the Bicolanos proud. *Michael B. Jaucian*

PRESIDENT Arroyo cites the heroism of Gen. Simeon Ola. With her are, from left, Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez, Guinobatan Mayor Juan Garcia, Ola's descendant Hameedah Erlinda Ola-Kasan, Ligao City Mayor Erlinda Gonzalez and Southern Luzon Command head Lt. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag. NINO JESUS ORBETA

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And Minister of Justice

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On the occasion of his conferment of the Degree of DOCTOR OF LAWS, Honoris Causa by the University of the East on its Fifty-Eight Foundation Year, on September 24, 2004.

From:
Wilson Ong
FIRST LANDLINK ASIA
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Oil price hike can justify pay raise, says labor exec

By Martin Marfil

THE SOARING oil prices can be used to justify a second increase in the minimum wages in one year, acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson yesterday said.

World oil prices rose to a record $50.47 per barrel yesterday and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projected a 6.8-percent inflation rate for September.

Imson said the wage increase would have to be tackled by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards where groups can file petitions for wage adjustments.

"Under the law, the wage boards can't grant successive wage increases in one year but there is also a provision that when there is a supervening condition, wage adjustments could be made," Imson said.

He was referring to Rule IV, Section 3 of the Revised Rules of Procedures on Minimum Wage Fixing, which states that any wage order issued by the board may not be disturbed in 12 months from its effectivity and no petition for wage increase shall be entertained in the same period.

Justification

However, the rule also states that in case of supervening conditions such as an extraordinary increase in the prices of petroleum products and basic goods and services, the board can exercise its wage fixing function during the period.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) earlier said that a 5-percent inflation rate could be interpreted as a supervening or extraordinary condition and used as a justification for a wage increase.

In July, most of the regional wage boards issued wage orders after labor groups filed their petitions because of increases in oil prices and transportation fares early this year.

Imson said the wage board decisions would be based not only on the capacity of employers to pay but also on the need to preserve jobs.

Capacity to pay

"We look at the capacity of employers to pay, determining what is affordable so as not to cause displacement like non-wage benefits for job preservation," he said.

The TUCP warned employers against using the oil price increases as an excuse for laying off workers.

"If they take advantage of the situation and lay off workers, we will file the necessary cases," TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said.

Diesel price seen to soar till December

From page A1

The Department of Energy (DOE) could not give an estimate of the impact of the peso depreciation on oil prices. Its assumptions are based on a 56 to the dollar exchange rate.

The sharp price increase in diesel, which accounts for 70 percent of all petroleum sales, is unusual considering that other petroleum products have been softening, according to Delcallar.

While the average price of diesel in the world market has been rising (up 4.6 percent to $54.06 this month, $51.06 per barrel last month) over the past 30 days, the average price of unleaded gas and crude oil has been declining, by 5.3 percent and 8.3 percent respectively during the same period.

Crude prices, however, have soared over the past few days.

Second straight day

Oil lingered above the $50 per barrel threshold in Asian trading on Wednesday, breaching the mark for the second straight day ahead of key US crude stockpile data.

An expected cold Northern Hemisphere winter also weighed in as a pledge by the world's largest producer, Saudi Arabia, to boost production capacity failed to lower prices.

Crude for November delivery traded at $50.09 per barrel at around 0700 GMT in after-hours trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange after inching up around midday in Asia. It hit $50.47 on Tuesday.

Basic reason

"The basic reason (for the high prices) is that we are near winter ... and winter means a high production demand," said Esa Ramasamy, the editorial manager for Platts energy analysts in Singapore.

The price spike has some economists worried that expensive energy could set off a global recession.

Unrest in Nigeria—Africa's largest producer and the world's seventh biggest exporter—fanned market fears as rebels pledged to wrest control of vital fields in the Niger Delta that produce more than 2 million barrels per day.

Shutdown

In the Gulf of Mexico, 39 production platforms and two drilling rigs were shut down on Sept. 13 due to Hurricane Ivan, leaving 11.8 million barrels shut in, the US Minerals Management Service said Tuesday.

Analysts expect that data to be released by the US Department of Energy later Wednesday will show crude stocks hitting a record low for the ninth straight week.

Oil now costs around 75 percent more than it did a year ago but, when adjusted for inflation, still remains around $30 below the level reached in 1981.

Opec's efforts to bring prices down to more moderate levels have failed, but giant producer Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it would boost production capacity by 15 percent to try to stabilize the market.

Growing demand

Delcallar traced the surging diesel price to supply constraints and growing demand.

Although oil producers have raised their output, the refining capacity is not enough for diesel, especially in the US where refineries in Texas and Louisiana have been forced to shut down due to the recent hurricanes.

Aside from the drastic drop in US diesel supply, Delcallar cited the robust demand for diesel in China, which has become a net importer of diesel this year after having been a net exporter in the past.

More than two million cars were sold in China last year from only 500,000 in 2002.

Making matters worse is the onset of winter. Diesel stocks are expected to tighten in the US and Europe as consumers buy more more for their heating requirements.

Conservation

Malacañang, however, could only come up with medium- to long-term solutions to alleviate the impact of rising fuel prices.

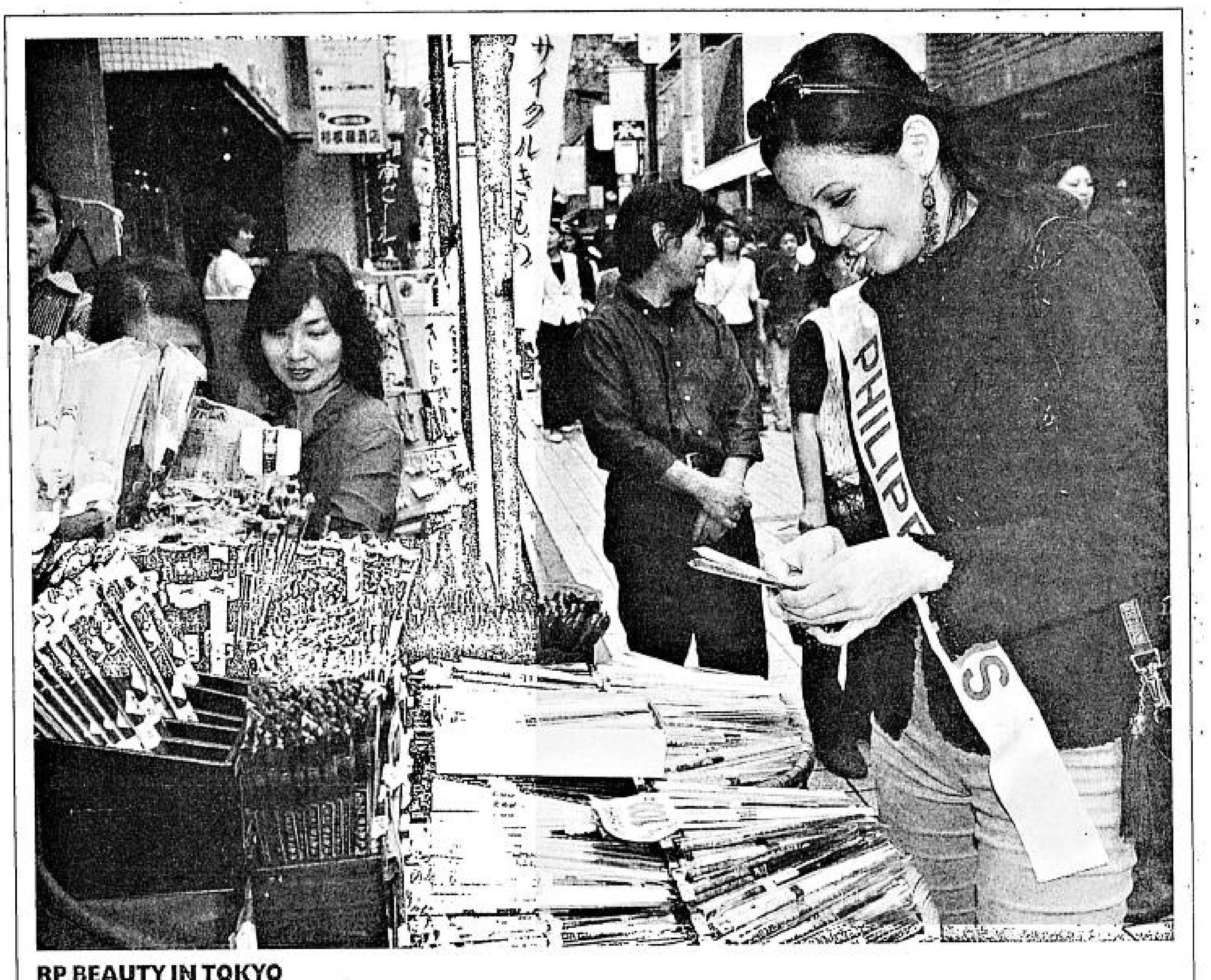
Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government was counting on intensified fuel conservation efforts, the importation of CNG (compressed natural gas) buses (200 in early next year) and the aggressive promotion of ethanol as fuel alternative to reduce the country's dependence on oil imports.

"We cannot control world factors, we are only discussing alternative sources," Bunye said.

He declined to comment on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo would reject any moves by the public transport groups to seek a fare hike.

The DOE has ruled out a subsidy program similar to that adopted by the Thai government, which has kept its diesel price at P19.83 per liter. Diesel is retailed at P21.52 per liter in the Philippines.

Because the subsidy program has already cost the Thai government $541 million, it has scheduled to remove the subsidy by October next year, according to Delcallar. *With report from AP*



RP BEAUTY IN TOKYO

Miss International contestants from 61 countries, including Miss Philippines Margaret Ann Bayot, take part in goodwill programs in the ancient Japanese capital of Kamakura southwest of Tokyo before the beauty pageant's finals is held on Oct.16. AP

Palace: GSIS chief won't go on leave

From page A1

said at a briefing.

In 2002, then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, a close ally of President Arroyo, was forced to go on leave when he was embroiled in a bribery charge.

But opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña said Ms Arroyo was "protecting" Garcia.

Asked whether he was urging Ms Arroyo to fire Garcia, Osmeña said: "The President will do what's good for her, not what's good for the country."

The senator said it was wrong for Ms Arroyo to advise the GSIS chief to explain his side to the people, and not to her.

"She is the one who will make the decision on whether he stays or goes. She can't pass that on to the people because the people can't fire Garcia, but she can," Osmeña told reporters."

Deeply touched

Sought for comment, Garcia said: "I am deeply touched by the continued support of the President in my leadership of the GSIS. I'm happy she appreciates the reforms I've done. I know she's been hurt by unpopular reforms I initiated, but she allowed me to do them because she knows they are the right things to do. This act is one of the President's defining moments."

Bunye said that while Garcia had been doing the rounds of media offices to air his side in the past two days, the President had yet to issue a reaction.

He said Ms Arroyo would let the public know if Garcia had fully explained himself to the public.

But while the President appeared to have left Garcia to fend off his critics, Bunye said she "also realizes that there is a possibility that there are vested interests involved."

'No experience'

Osmeña said that as early as 2001, he had objected to Garcia's appointment as head of the GSIS and even called on the latter to step down.

He said the new GSIS charter approved in 1997 stipulated that the GSIS president and general manager should have a 10-year experience in banking or in insurance, which Garcia did not have.

"Garcia is a lawyer in Cebu and never had any experience in the banking or insurance industry, much less the required 10 years," Osmeña pointed out.

He said Garcia was appointed to the post for "political reasons."

Asked whether he was urging Garcia to resign, the senator said Garcia would not take his advice. But he said he was willing to bet his bottom peso that "if we take a good look at the finances of GSIS, [we will see that its] performance has not been that hot."

He also said he would look at GSIS finances one of these days.

Transfer of deposits

Garcia has transferred GSIS deposits from the government-owned Land Bank of the Philippines, the country's third biggest commercial bank, to Union Bank, ranked 16th among the largest banks.

This was announced in a press conference yesterday by Deputy House Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo), Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa GSIS led by lawyer Albert Velasco, and Ferdinand Gaite, president of Courage, a confederation of government employees.

Beltran has also filed a graft case against Garcia for awarding the flagship GSIS eCard project to Union Bank over the Bank of the Philippine Islands (ranked second), Landbank (third), Philippine National Bank (sixth), and Development Bank of the Philippines (eighth).

The eCard is a combined ID and ATM card through which all GSIS benefits such as loans and retirement claims shall be paid.

The GSIS has announced that the transfer of servicing from the Landbank to Union Bank will be completed by Sept. 30.

Aboitiz group

"We cannot find a plausible reason why Winston Garcia should push at all costs for the adoption of the eCard project and award it to Union Bank, except [for the fact that] Union Bank is controlled by the Aboitiz Group, which allegedly has business links with Garcia," Gaite said.

Suplico asked why Garcia preferred Union Bank over the Landbank when the GSIS, being a government-owned and -controlled corporation, should tap government banks to handle its banking needs.

"This certainly goes against common sense and undermines the President's drive to stem the fiscal crisis plaguing her strong republic," Suplico said.

The Landbank had been servicing GSIS banking requirements since the early 1990s.

In a press statement, Landbank president and chief executive officer Gary Teves said that the bank considered the GSIS a valued client and that contrary to reports, it did not send a letter threatening to terminate its services.

Maintaining balance

In an earlier press briefing, Garcia said the reason for the decision of the GSIS to transfer its deposits to Union Bank was the high maintaining balance required by the Landbank.

Garcia said that of the estimated P7 or 8 billion of GSIS deposits in the Landbank, P1 billion would be moved to Union Bank and the remainder invested in more paintings, long-term loans and government securities.

"Landbank was already requiring us a maintaining balance of P7 billion. That is just too much for the GSIS," Garcia had said.

He said Union Bank was agreeable to a maintaining balance of P1 billion for the GSIS. *With reports from Michelle V. Remo and Cynthia D. Balana*

Amnesty for Oakwood mutineers under study by Palace

From page A1

apartments in Makati City in July 2003 questioned before the Supreme Court the jurisdiction of the court-martial over the cases of their clients.

Priority

Two days later, the AFP filed its opposition to the petition of the soldiers' lawyers.

But the high court ordered a stop to the court-martial proceedings.

Cruz said the cases of the enlisted personnel who joined the mutiny would take priority over the cases of the leaders. He said sanctions ranging from a reprimand to a demotion would be imposed on the soldiers based on an evaluation of their cases.

"That is why there is a process," the defense secretary said. "The court-martial will look into the evidence, the extent of participation, the rules which will be applied. There will be a lot [of soldiers] who will be reinstated and given sanctions. The sanctions will be based on the rules."

He stressed that the court-martial proceedings would continue "because according to the rules and the law, there is a process to follow. You cannot have a decision without following the process. The process must be followed."

Cruz also said he had instructed Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP chief of staff, to negotiate with the soldiers' lawyers not to use their right to "peremptory challenge" anymore so as not to delay the court-martial proceedings.

"If we can do it in several months, I would prefer that," he said.

Apology accepted

In a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo on Sept. 24, six officers—Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, Marine Captains Nicanor Faeldon and Gary Alejano and Navy Lieutenants James Layug and Antonio Trillanes IV—apologized to Ms Arroyo for launching the mutiny.

The President accepted the apology but said the cases against the mutineers would continue.

Lawyers of the soldiers subsequently announced that they were never informed of the group's decision to issue an apology. At least one, Homobono Adaza, has formally withdrawn as counsel of the officers.

All the mutineers are facing a court-martial—the 259 soldiers present at Oakwood at the time of the mutiny for five violations of the Articles of War, and another 16 who were not in the building, for failure to suppress the mutiny.

Thirty-one soldiers, including the six who apologized to Ms Arroyo, are facing coup d'etat charges before a Makati court and other offenses before a military tribunal.

Of the 31, 27 have been granted bail. But the military has yet to release them on grounds that they are still facing a court-martial.

Mayors in eastern Metro Manila frown on e-casino operations

By Luige A. del Puerto and Tarra V. Quismundo

MAYORS in eastern Metro Manila are also up in arms against online gambling through electronic or e-casinos that use legitimate Internet shops as fronts.

This month, Pasig City closed an Internet shop that had online gambling operations, while San Juan approved an ordinance penalizing any form of gambling in schools.

Yesterday, Marikina officials said they would not tolerate e-casinos in the city.

But morality is not the key issue in the closure of the e-casinos.

Local officials said these provided little in terms of revenues to city coffers and would only encourage the spread of vices.

"If it is a huge, Vegas-type casino, then we would consider it because that would bring jobs and tourists," said Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando.

No e-casinos

Fernando said there had been attempts to set up e-casinos in the city, but she did not allow them.

"I won't allow one in my city," she declared.

In San Juan, Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito said he was against "all forms of gambling."

"I am fully ware of the negative effects it will bring to my constituents," Ejercito said in a prepared statement. "The easy money it promises lures the patrons of this activity, especially due to poverty. However, the safety of other people and the community is jeopardized."

This, he said, is what makes gambling intolerable.

Gambling hinders his vision of San Juan as a zone of discipline, the mayor said.

The town's ordinance No. 22 prohibits all forms of gambling in schools in the town.

Recently, the mayor issued a cease and desist order against the management of an e-casino shop on Wilson corner P. Guevarra Streets, a commercial area.

"I guarantee that all forms of gambling will not be tolerated," Ejercito said.

Late this month, Pasig City officials raided the office of E-Casino Filipino on Meralco Avenue.

Misrepresented

Councilor Bobby Eusebio said the e-casino misrepresented its application for business permit and license. It had applied as an Internet cafe but was operating as an online casino.

Pasig City Ordinance No. 20 prohibits gambling establishments from operating in the city.

Meanwhile, Manila is on the defensive over the impending operation of a gambling "arcade" in a hotel on Gandara Street, Binondo.

Supporters of the community-based Kilusan Kontra Sugalan earlier massed in front of the Binondo Suites to ask city officials to stop the opening of the gambling venue.

They argued that this would only bring in the destructive culture of gambling to the community and teach its residents, especially children, the wrong values.

Atienza defended the "arcade" by saying it would not offer card games and "unlimited gambling" as a casino would.

Nonetheless, Atienza asked the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) to assure Manilans that its arcade would not be turned into a full-fledged casino later.

Pagcor deferred the opening of the arcade that would showcase slot machines following protests by civic groups.

Atienza said it should have opened last Tuesday.

"PAGCOR has to explain that what they are opening is not a casino, and it must give its actual commitment to the community," said Atienza.

In Quezon City, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has already ordered the closure of seven e-casino outlets reportedly operating in the guise of Internet and online gaming cafes.

New taxi rate hike out today

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LAND Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board is set to issue today an order allowing taxis to raise their flag down to P30 from P25.

The new rate would take effect 15 days after publication in a major daily. The flag down covers the charge for the first 500 meters.

In exchange for the fare increase, the regulator would direct taxis to start issuing receipts to passengers by January 2005.

The regulator also said it would soon legalize the operations of out-of-line FXes or public Asian Utility Vehicles or AUVs.

FX taxi legalization

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said the transportation department was preparing an order to legalize the operations of meter-less but yellow-plated AUVs that collect fare per head.

Currently, FXes or similar-type vehicles that line up in terminals or ply specific routes are considered illegal by the LTFRB.

Bautista said the order would come out soon. It may even be released today together with the approval of the increased flag down for taxis.

The LTFRB chief said, however, that authorities would tighten its policy on the so-called mega taxis or FXes with meters. She said these mega taxis could not charge its customers per head.

"Their franchise is a taxi that's why they have to use their meter," she said.

QC plans text-a-crime project

GOLDEN COUPLES REUTERS
Some of 43 couples pose for a photo after they were honored by the Catholic Church in San Rafael, Bulacan. Inset shows Hernando dela Cruz, 82, kissing his wife Lydia, 72, during a rite renewing their marriage vows. The Church says the couples who have been married for over 50 years prove that matrimony still works in the Philippines. The Catholic church has been campaigning against the legalization of divorce in the Philippines. The Philippines and Malta are the only remaining countries in the world without a divorce law.

By Tina G. Santos

IT'S THE call of the times.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte is mulling the use of text messaging in reporting crime as he urges the Central Police District (CPD) to adopt new and more effective ways of improving the peace and order situation in Quezon City.

Belmonte said a software could be developed to process text messages and enable policemen to address all forms of criminality, especially street crimes.

He said text messaging could also help in the early solution of crimes.

32 million cell users

If implemented, the mayor said, billboards would be put up in the city to inform the public of cellular phone numbers which they could text or call.

According to telecommunications industry officials, the country has around 32 million cellular phone users, most of whom are fond of text messaging.

Belmonte said the plan was intended to make crime reporting as simple and easy as playing with the keys of a cellular phone, which he noted were commonly used to exchange jokes.

He urged CPD director Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan to coordinate with city officials in identifying areas in need of police stations.

Fugitive tracked down

By Jerome Aning

AN AMERICAN fugitive facing a double murder charge in the United States who had been hiding in the country for the past 20 years had been arrested by the Bureau of Immigration.

Immigration agents and policemen caught up with Romeo Cabarles, 54, in Tabac Sur, Oton, Iloilo City, on Monday.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said Cabarles would be deported as an illegal alien since his US passport had expired on 1987.

The US Embassy, which sought Cabarles' arrest, said the fugitive had been on the wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 2002.

Two counts of murder and an attempted murder charge had been filed against him before a court in California.

The embassy, however, did not give further details regarding Cabarles' participation in the crime that happened in 1982. No information on the victims was also provided.

A warrant for Cabarles' arrest was first issued by the trial court of Compton County on April 16, 2002.

Three months later, another arrest warrant was issued against him by a judge of the US district court in Los Angeles for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

SUPER TURBO CHARGER

SMALL WONDER JOAN BONDOC
Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and inventor Pablo Planas hold up the Khaos Super Turbo Charger of KSTC, a gas saving device that has been shown to save as much as 50 percent on gasoline. Defensor led environment officials yesterday in testing the device. They later attested that Khaos drastically reduced emissions from 0.4 to 0.9.

Swamp eyed for bird park

By Edson E. Tandoc Jr.

SOME local officials are planning to convert a remote swampy area in Valenzuela City into a bird-watching eco-tourism park.

This is still part of the plan to declare Villa Encarnacion in Barangay Malanday as a bird sanctuary.

Nearly two months ago, hundreds of black-crowned night herons were found thriving in the mangroves beside the subdivision.

With the proposed park, visitors can have some bird-watching for a fee, councilor Ritchie Cuadra told the INQUIRER.

He said this would not only give the city additional revenues but also make local officials more capable in protecting the herons.

Migratory birds

Black-crowned night herons—also called nycticorax—are migratory birds usually found in coastal areas in several countries. Herons eat mostly fish and therefore thrive in wetlands.

There have been frequent sightings of herons in the Philippines. But as migratory birds not endemic in the country, they leave after several hours.

In August, the rescue of a wounded heron in Villa Encarnacion brought attention to the plight of the hundreds of herons which have apparently chosen to stay in the area.

Some bird experts said this was the first reported breeding of herons in Metro Manila.

Cuadra had already proposed an ordinance to declare the barangay, along with five other areas in the city, as bird sanctuaries to enable barangay officials to go after residents who would catch, kill or harm the herons.

The other afternoon, the local government also organized a public hearing to consult villagers about the planned park.

Most of the residents, who have gotten used to the herons beside their houses, are supporting the proposal, village president Lorenzo Bogayon told the INQUIRER.

Apprehension

There are apprehensions of course, as some residents are thinking about the effects of the park to their quiet neighborhood, especially if visitors from other localities start coming.

Another problem is that the owner of the vacant lot where the herons live is reportedly planning to develop the area into a subdivision.

But environment department National Capital Region Director Corazon Davis said the Valenzuela City government could just buy the vacant lot and develop it as a park.

Or the government could just forge a partnership with the owner for the operation of the park, Davis added.

She said the environment department would be assisting the local government in developing the area without disturbing the home of the herons.

METROBRIEFS

Mall fire in Caloocan

MALL goers panicked and rushed outside the Ever Gotesco Grand Central in Caloocan City after thick smoke swept through the mall's second floor yesterday afternoon. At 5:18 p.m., a blast was heard near the department store section, according to FO3 Raymundo Savare. Nobody was reported injured in the fire that caused minimal damage, City Fire Chief Agapito Nacario said. Fire fighters put out the blaze around 6 p.m. A few minutes earlier, the Aurelio Building on Edsa at the corner of 9th Avenue also caught fire. It was declared under control 40 minutes later. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Statistics Oct. confab

THE COUNTRY'S statisticians, academics and professionals in related fields, and data producers and users will converge for the 9th National Convention on Statistics (NCS) on Oct. 4-5, 2004 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The Convention provides the occasion for these people to share, learn and improve knowledge and skills in the field of statistics and its applications. The event will have as its theme "Rising Beyond Global Challenges Through Quality Philippine Statistics." Registration can be made on-site and online at www.nscb.gov.ph/ncs/register.asp. For more details, please contact the Secretariat at 897-2170, 895-2436 or visit www.nscb.gov.ph/ncs/.

Cruz, 82

RETIRED US Embassy Procurement Officer Celerino Cruz Jr. died Tuesday morning after a heart attack. He was 82. Cruz is survived by daughters Carmelita Walsh and Corazon Panedo, sons-in-law George Walsh and Judge Jose Paneda, and grandchildren Joselle, Joses, Jose Luis, and Leslie. His body lies at the family residence on 320 Nanirahan St.,Mandaluyong City. Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 2 at the Mandaluyong Municipal Cemetery.

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Caloocan jeep, trike drivers fight over turf

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A RUNNING war between jeepney and tricycle drivers in Caloocan City over turf left hundreds of commuters stranded yesterday morning after jeepney routes from Gasak/Navotas to Recto (Manila) were abandoned by its drivers.

Tricycle organizations had blocked roads used by the jeepneys; in some instances, stones were thrown at some of the drivers.

With tricycles on 6th Avenue blocking the road, the jeepneys instead used the 4th Avenue route, only to be blocked by tricycle drivers.

Threatened, many jeepney drivers stopped plying their routes.

Late afternoon, the city police and the city Tricycle and Pedicab Regulation Services department temporarily resolved the issue, and jeepney drivers went back to their routes.

A tricycle organization using the 6th Avenue route said that jeepney drivers used to end up only on 5th Avenue.

But because the local government had recently turned 5th Avenue into a one-way road, jeepney drivers from Rizal Avenue going to C3 Road began using the 6th Avenue route.

The jeepneys had been luring passengers away from tricycles, 4th Avenue tricycle operators and drivers association president Ablen Iluminado told the INQUIRER.

This was not the first confrontation between the two groups.

In February, a similar incident happened, resulting in a show of force by both groups.

Gasak/Navotas to Recto jeeps used to pass through Samson Road on their way to Monumento Circle.

But when the local government eased up traffic in Monumento Circle, the jeeps were rerouted to C3 and 5th Avenue. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board had approved the reroute, the jeepney drivers said.

The reroute had severely affected the daily take of tricycle drivers because commuters found it cheaper riding jeepneys passing through the tricycle routes.

To solve the problem, former Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo devised a route for jeepney drivers who would pass through small portions of the tricycle routes. The arrangement appeared to have pacified both parties, until yesterday's blockade.

In a meeting yesterday with City Hall, tricycle drivers agreed to use another route allowing them to pass through small portions of the avenues. Jeepney drivers, on the other hand, were told to honor an agreement that they would not pick up passengers along tricycle routes.

Masbate mayor, father arrested by NBI in Las Piñas

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MAYOR of Placer town in Masbate and his father were arrested by National Bureau of Investigation agents in Las Piñas City yesterday on the strength of a warrant issued against the pair for a murder case involving the death of a school supervisor in their town.

Reinario Estonilo, 37, and his father Carlos, 67, a former Placer mayor, were arrested by agents of the NBI's Security Management Division (NBI-SMD) in a home on Dollar Lane Street, Villanueva Subdivision in Las Piñas City early yesterday morning.

The NBI-SMD learned of the Estonilos' whereabouts from an informant, and had placed them under surveillance, said NBI Deputy Director Nestor Mantaring.

Father and son were implicated in the killing of Floro Casas, the public schools district supervisor of Placer, on April 5, 2004.

Casas was shot dead in front of the Celera Elementary School in Villa Inocencio, Placer.

The local police in the area had conducted an investigation and named the Estonilos and seven others, as suspects.

Reinario and Carlos both denied involvement in the killing.

Denial

Carlos said that Casas had been a very close friend of his, so it would have been impossible for him to kill Casas.

Reinario said the killing could be politically motivated, adding that their enemies could have had a hand in linking them to the murder.

CARLOS and Reinario Estonillo ERIK ARAZAS

"When I won in the elections, that was when I was implicated in the incident," he added.

The young Estonilo said he was on his way to a town fiesta at the time the killing took place.

Carlos, on the other hand, told reporters that he and his son came to Metro Manila early this month for the purpose of filing a petition for review of their case before the justice department.

The Estonilos said they had wanted to surrender to Philippine National Police chief Director General Edgar Aglipay because they had read that the police have been told to hunt them down.

Carlos said they were just waiting for their lawyer to file the petition before their surrender, but the NBI arrested them yesterday.

TMG sets recovery target of 5 stolen vehicles monthly

By Christian V. Esguerra

ALARMED by the rising number of car theft cases nationwide, Philippine National Police chief Director General Edgar Aglipay yesterday raised the bar on the number of stolen vehicles the Traffic Management Group was required to recover.

All TMG personnel nationwide now have to recover at least five "hot" cars monthly, according to Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, TMG director.

Instructions to dismantle at least five car theft syndicates during the same period were also relayed to the men in the field, the director added.

Aglipay said that failure to comply with the new directive could cost a TMG officer his post.

The PNP chief said the move was aimed at tightening up the work of the police traffic unit amid the worsening problem of car theft nationwide.

Mangila said around five vehicles are stolen daily all over the country.

Most of the car thefts happen in Metro Manila, with the cities of Quezon, Makati and Manila remaining the most dangerous places for car owners, he said.

FOUR DIGIT	SUERTRES	EZ2	MEGALOTTO 6/45
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	(In exact order)		

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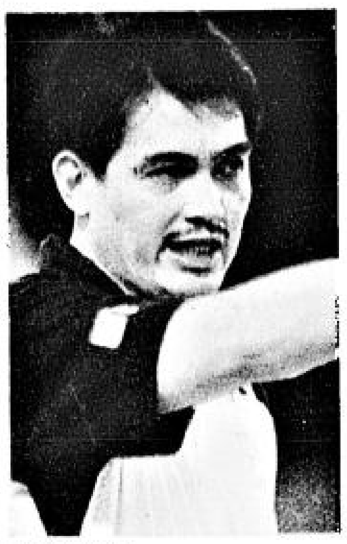


PUMAREN

BANAL

UAAP showdown up

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo
(Women's-Game 1 Finals)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs-Game 3 Finals)

FOCUS and determination.

The team that has more of these will end up as champion when the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the De La Salle Archers clash in a playoff for the UAAP varsity basketball title at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game 3 of the best-of-three crown showdown is at 4 p.m. right after the Adamson Lady Falcons kick off their title defense against the Ateneo Lady Eagles in Game 1 of the women's Finals at 2 o'clock.

FEU's Arwind Santos and La Salle's Mac Cardona will help decide the encounter.

Santos, the season's Most Valuable Player, vowed to lead the Tamaraws to their second straight title today.

"I'll give everything, even if I don't score, as long as I can help the team. We have a championship to def end," said the 6-foot-4 forward.

But Cardona is just as intent in giving the crown back to the Archers.

"We can still bounce back. I'm confident with my teammates and my coach. The pressure is now on FEU because they know it's hard to beat La Salle twice," said the senior swingman, who lost the MVP to Santos but easily made it to the Mythical Five.

Just like their main men, FEU mentor Koy Banal and La Salle coach Franz Pumaren are similarly pumped up.

"Everything that we have worked hard for will come out in this game. I think the team

UAAP/ A22

Senador, Gonzales to Chess Olympiad

TAGAYTAY City—National Master Emmanuel Senador and International Master Jayson Gonzales picked up 1.5 points in the last two rounds of the National Chess Championship yesterday and completed the Philippine team for the Chess Olympiad next month in Spain.

Senador finished second with 12 points behind eventual winner and early Olympiad qualifier NM Darwin Laylo and Gonzales clinched third place with 11.5 points thanks to a monumental upset 10-year-old Wesley So inflicted on veteran IM Chito Garma.

So, nursing a fever heading into the match at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here, won in 38 moves of a French Defense and pushed Garma into a three-way tie for fourth with 11 points along with IM Petronio Roca and NM Oliver Barbosa.

The youngest ever finalist in the event sponsored this year by Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino and the First Gentleman Foundation finished with 7 points.

"*Masaya na po ako sa ipinakita ko rito. Kahit hindi ko po nakuha ang* target *ko na* Top 10 finish, *napatunayan ko naman na kaya ko nang lumaban sa magagaling nating* players (I'm happy with my showing. Even if I did not finish in the Top 10, I've proven myself against the good players)," said So, whose victims included top seed and reigning Asian 3.2a Zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo and Roca.

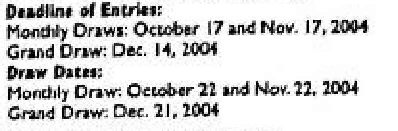
Gonzales, who will be in his first Olympiad, beat NM Leonardo Carlos in the final round to take a half-point lead over Garma with his match against So still ongoing.

"I always thought that he is the savior of the sport *here. Ang hindi ko alam s'ya rin ang magiging* savior *ko para makasama sa* Olympiad (It turned out he is my savior in my Olympiad bid)," added Gonzales, member of the multititlist Philippine Army Chess Team.

Earlier seeded to the RP team were Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Marc Paragua.

Laylo, who clinched his second IM norm as early as the 15th round, secured the title with 12.5 points after halving the point with Senador in 16 moves of an English Opening.

WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao secured the title in the women's division after drawing with WIM Beverly Mendoza in 15 moves of an English Opening. WNM Aices Salvador placed second after the ailing Mary Grace Castro didn't show up. Loreshyl Cuizon beat WIM Cristine Rose Mariano, 1.5-.5, in a two-game rapid playoff for the last slot. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



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Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
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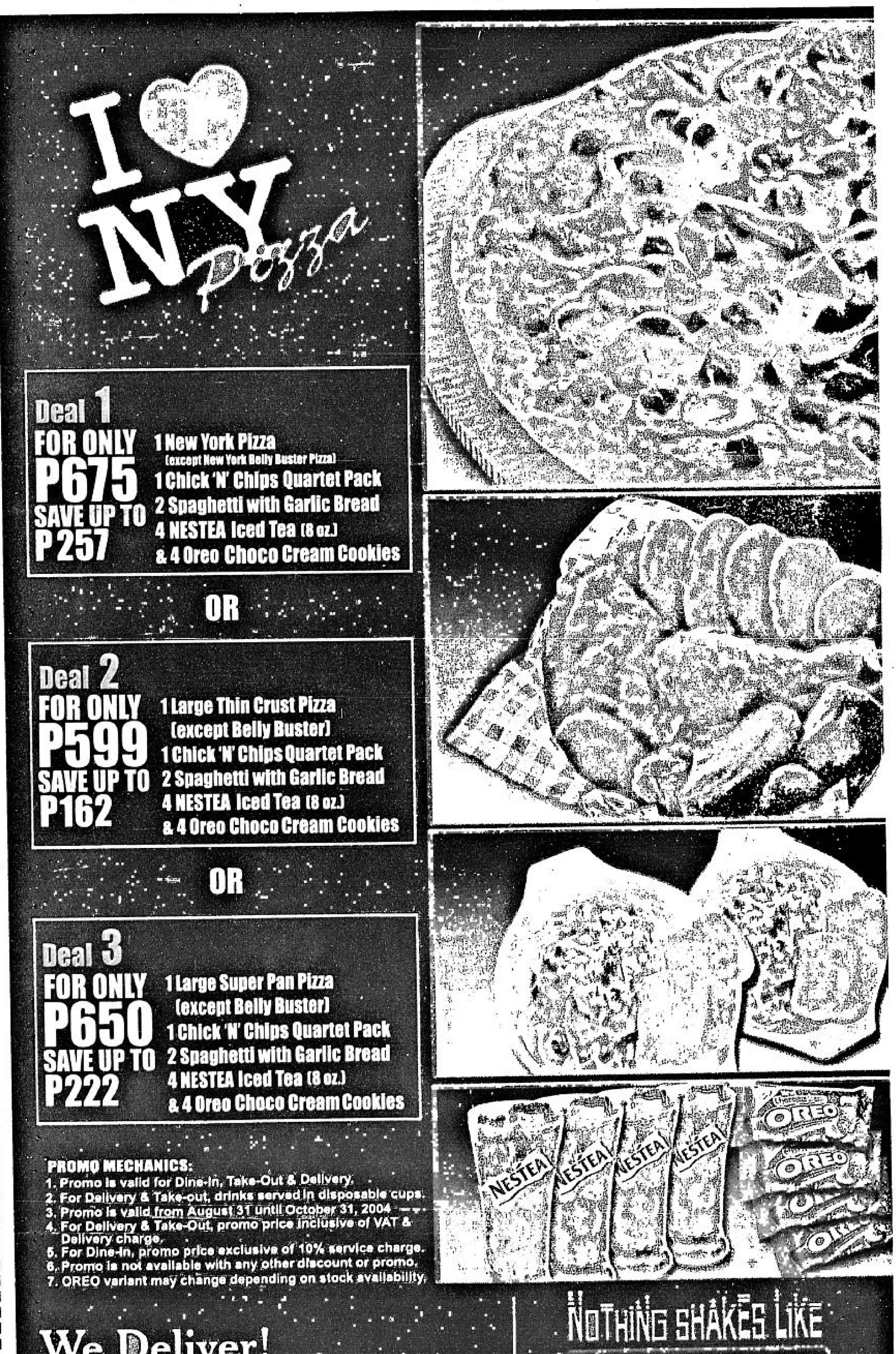

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Probe PBA officials on Fil-fors

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday ordered the investigation of Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) officials, who might have helped eight Fil-foreign cagers now facing deportation for faking their citizenship papers.

In a memorandum issued yesterday, Gonzalez ordered Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras to investigate the PBA officials and other persons involved in the alleged scam, adding that it "was obvious" that public documents were "tampered.'"

"You are hereby directed to pursue, on the premise that we find that the mentioned PBA players are indeed 'bogus' Filipino Americans, and include in your investigation any official of the PBA or officials, owners, managers of the teams where these players play," Gonzalez said.

He also ordered Paras to include "any other person or persons who facilitated or conspired in the preparation and submission of spurious evidence of citizenship of players to enable them to play in the PBA."

"It is obvious that public documents were tampered with and/or faked, which will constitute fraud and falsification of official records," he added.

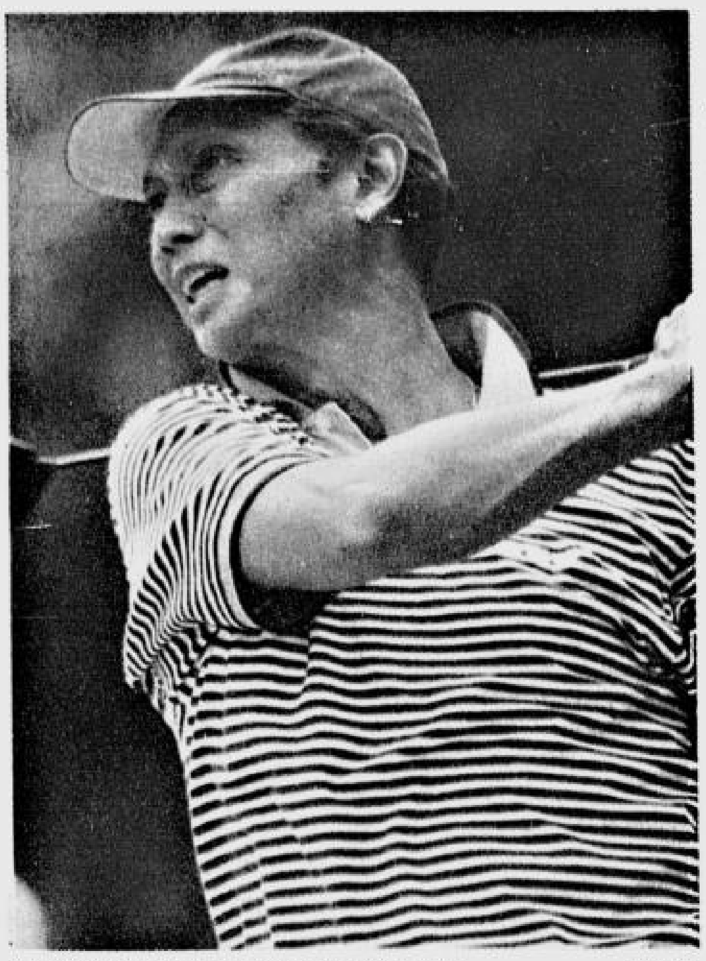
PBA commissioner Noli Eala said the league welcomes the investigation.

"I think the PBA has always been transparent with the government and we will cooperate with them in any way to speed up the investigation," said Eala.

"We're willing to undergo what is legally necessary and we will follow everything in accordance with the law," he added.

Gonzalez on Tuesday said that the DOJ would resolve the citizenship of the eight basketball players in 10 days time.

Besides Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava, the other players whose citizenship were being investigated were Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Andy Seigle now with Barangay Ginebra from Purefoods, Red Bull Barako's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, Ginebra's Alex Crisano, Jonathan Ordonio now with Red Bull from Alaska and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer.



TOMMY Manotoc: Team Philippines' top gun PDI PHOTO

Manotoc, RP srs lead

TOMMY Manotoc shot a second-round four-under-par 68 yesterday to anchor the Philippines to a three-shot lead over favored Australia in the Asia-Pacific Amateur senior team championship at the Raffles Country Club in Singapore.

The 55-year-old mainstay of Canlubang in the PAL Interclub also led the individual race by a stroke over Rodney Barltrop with his 143 total counting his opening round 75.

The Philippines has a 598 total after Iggy Clavecilla scored a 71, Bing Bunyi a 72 and Caloy Coscoluella a 77.

Richie Garcia's 79 did not count in the six-to-play, four-to-count format. Francis Gaston, the sixth member of the team, failed to make the trip because of an injury. *Musong R. Castillo*

I will not waste my time—Bondad

By Musong R. Castillo

"I WILL not waste my time going there anymore."

Philippine Ladies Amateur champion Frances Bondad declared this yesterday as the young Australia-based shotmaker officially gave up her slot to the Philippine team to the World Amateur championships slated next month in Puerto Rico.

"I would rather play in an international competition representing Australia because the people here love me," Bondad told the INQUIRER in a call from Sydney. "I will defend the Philippine Ladies' Amateur title (next year) as an Australian."

The withdrawal by the 16-year-old came a few hours before National Golf Association of the Philippines secretary general Luisito Fernandez announced last-minute efforts by the NGAP to bring her to Manila.

Dinah Briones, the aunt of Frances who is facilitating her arrival, informed the INQUIRER she was assured by Fernandez and NGAP director Danny Pizzaro that they were exhausting all means to bring Frances over.

"We still hope to do something about it because we can tell Frances what to do," said Dinah over the phone in Filipino. "What she said was probably a spur-of-the-moment thing because she is upset."

The NGAP dropped Bondad Friday and scheduled a playoff between alternates Carmelette Villaroman and Lora Roberto to fill up her slot. She was informed of her ouster, which the NGAP later denied, before she was supposed to board a PAL flight to Manila.

Noel Bondad, Frances' father, is actually still interested in letting her daughter go.

Canlubang aces ahead

LIPA, Batangas—Ronnie Torrecampo and Boyet Zaragosa both had eagles in their contrasting rounds of one-under-par 71 and even-par 72, respectively, Tuesday that put them jointly on top after the second round of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

As first day leader Jong Laput made a nosedive, Zaragosa and Torrecampo turned the battle for the top plum into an all-Canlubang show. Their similar 145 aggregates at the windswept course gave them a three-stroke lead over Laput.

Laput, whose two-under 70 was the best score for Round 1 on Monday, just had a birdie on the 16th against seven bogeys for a 78 that pulled him down to 148.

Jun Bernis, the reigning Philippine amateur champion, remained four strokes adrift in fourth place at 149 after a 74.

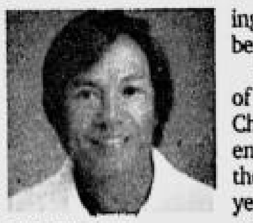
Murakami stays on top

ARTEMIO Murakami salvaged a three-over par 74 then watched Juvic Pagunsan's charge fizzle out to remain on top halfway through the 3rd Riviera Amateur golf championship at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite yesterday.

Two bogeys and a double-bogey at the frontside nearly put to naught Murakami's stirring 68 in the first round but the former national champion bounced back with back-to-back birdies from No. 10 then settled for a 39-35 card for a 36-hole aggregate of 142.

Counting his first round score of 74, Pagunsan pooled a 145, towing Marvin Dumandan at 142.

Nat'l caddies gets backer



AREVALO

THE NATIONAL caddies championship has found a new ally in a former caddy who had made it big as a businessman, determined to give something back and change the lives of the winners forever.

Antonio Arevalo has promised to bankroll the tournament when he celebrates his 50th birthday next year, giving the future champions the break to make a living in golf aside from being bag-totters.

The untimely demise of Uratex owner, Robert Cheng last year put an end to the holding of the tournament this year, and Arevalo is more than willing to come to the aid of his brothers in his former profession.

Arevalo will also be funding the training of the champion to make him worthy of an RP team slot.

RP Women play today

THE PHILIPPINE women's soccer team kicks off its bid in the Asean Football Federation (AFF) Women's Championship today at the Thanh Long Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The Filipinas, reinforced by two US-based booters, debut against Indonesia in the 3 p.m. opener. US-based Karem Esteva and Friday Camaclang, together with Karen Cacho, Marielle Benitez and Clarisse Lazaro, will power the Nationals against the Indons.

The RP ladies have been grouped with Indonesia, Singapore and host Vietnam. The Philippines drew 1-1 with the Indons last December in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. Philippine Football Federation (PFF) president Johnny Romualdez believes the team, coached by Marlon Maro, can put up a worthy performance.

Camel series resumes

THE 2004 Camel Supercross Championship Series resumes its island-hopping sorties with the staging of the second leg in Bacolod City on Oct. 10.

Venue of the event, which is being held as part of the annual "Masskara" Festival, is the Gaisano Shopping Mall along Araneta Ave. Camel brand marketing manager Edward Cruz said the Bacolod leg of the three-part supercross series is expected to be as successful as the kickoff leg in Roxas City last Sept.19.

National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA) president Ken Falco recalled that the last official Camel supercross race in Bacolod City was held April 18,1998 with Glenn Aguilar sweeping both races in the pro open category and Ernie Leongson dominating the pro 125 class. For inquiries, call 0917-8992363.

Barte in Enervon final 4

LOCALS Nico Riego De Dios and Ralph Kevin Barte stunned seeded rivals yesterday to reach the boys' singles semifinals in the 2004 Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Riego De Dios of Olongapo City ousted No. 8 Taiwanese Chien Chang Ting, 7-5, 6-1, to advance against second seed Chang Huai-en, another Taiwanese who scored a 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 victory over sixth seed Filipino Miguel Narvaez.

The seventh-seeded Barte, the youngest player in the Final Four at 15, survived fourth seed Taiwanese Lien Chia Chu, 7-6 (3), 6-3, to advance against ITF Juniors No. 174 and top seed Martin Sayer of Hong Kong, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Taiwanese qualifier Peng Hsieh Yin.

In the girls singles, top seed Korean Chin Seul-ki outclassed Japanese qualifier Aki Yamasoto, 6-0, 6-2, to forge a semifinal showdown with third seed Filipino-German Vanessa Anja Peter, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Japanese Matsumi Yokota.

In other matches, fifth seed Japanese Ayumi Okuma downed Korean Han A-reum, 6-3, 6-2, to advance against Korean Jeong Yoon Young, who scored a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Vietnamese Nguyen Thuy Dung.

Rizal HS, JASMS prevail

RIZAL High School, JASMS and St. Francis beat their respective rivals in the inaugural Greenwich Girls Invitational Volleyball Tournament recently at the Rizal High School Gym in Pasig City.

The Rizal spikers beat St. Paul's Pasig, 25-15, 25-14, and then returned a day later to whip International Christian School, 25-11, 25-22.

Greenwich officials led by general manager Gina Navarrete graced the opening ceremonies. Lulu de Castro, Luis Velasco, Perpy Dorego, Michelle Pador, Grace Sasis and Rowena Uson. Tani Gonzales, project chair, Freddie Infante and Buddy Nogoy represented Omni Sports.

In the day's most exciting match, JASMS repulsed Poveda, 24-26, 25-6, 25-21. St. Francis-Manila also sweated it out before subduing ICS 21-25, 25-14, 25-21.

Akiko resource speaker

THOMSON

BEMEDALLED swimmer and TV personality Gillian Akiko Thomson will be the resource speaker in today's Leadership Forum at the BCAT Hostel of the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges in Naga City.

Set from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the event is the 11th leg of the Leadership Forum organized under the Globe Gentxt School Trip Campus Tour as a vehicle to prepare the youth for their role in national building.

Akiko is expected to impart to her young audience the secrets of her success by sharing her experiences in her glorious swimming career, capped by her participation in the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympic Games.

Akiko, holder of a BS degree from the University of California in Berkeley and an MBA from De La Salle University, was also the resource speaker in the Leadership Forum in Iligan City recently.

Asian MTB set Oct. 7

THE 10th Asian MTB championships, featuring cream of the crop of riders, will be staged in Puerto Princesa City from Oct. 7-10.

Elite riders from Japan and China head what could be the biggest field yet for the annual MTB championships conducted by the Asian Cycling Confederation, the continental arm of the Union Cycliste Internationale, the world governing body for cycling, and organized by PhilCycling, the national cycling association headed by Bert Lina, and Puerto Princesa City, led by Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

Both Lina, Hagedorn and the Sangguniang Panglunsod of Puerto Princesa City have assured a successful conduct of the championships.

Filipino international commissaire Oscar "Boying" Rodriguez Jr. of Danao City has inspected the cross-country and downhill courses of the championships which is supported by Air21, Tour Pilipinas Inc., the Philippine Sports Commission, Kontrol, Cargohaus, Dos-1, e-konek, Mail and More and Agua de Laguna.

UAAP showdown...

From page A21

that is more focused and sharp will win this game," said Banal after the Tamaraws leveled the series with a masterful 67-57 win in Game 2 last Sunday.

"That was an emotional game for us," recalled Banal. "Our backs were against the wall and it showed the character of this team. I think it showed that when you plant something good, you'll reap something good."

While the Tamaraws appear to have the momentum, Pumaren remains certain of his team's tenacity.

"I'm still confident that we can rise to the occasion," said Pumaren.

Jungolf Tour resumes at Calatagan

THE SHORT but challenging Calatagan Golf Club course in Batangas will host the next school season leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour this weekend.

About 70 jungolfers have signed up for the 36-hole tourney which will also serve as the start of a qualifying series for three international tournaments scheduled in Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore in the next three months.

To be disputed are the titles in Class A (15-17 years), Class B (13-14), Class C (11-12), Class D (9-10),Class E (7-8) and Class F (6 years and under) for boys and girls.

The country's top jungolfers, including reigning Junior World 7-8 years champ JR Gonzales, Pepsi Little champion AR Ramos and the Superal siblings Wolen, Crystal Faith and Princess are expected to lead the entries for the event also supported by Smart Communications.

Calatagan general manager Tommy Manotoc has provided the use of the course free to the participants and special rates for an overnight stay.

Interested parties may call the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines at 893-95-99.

greenwich

The GREENWICH All Girls Volleyball Invitational Tournament opened last Saturday at the Rizal High School in Pasig drawing 30 participating schools. So far the BIGGEST assembly of schools for an all girls volleyball league.

Seen in photo are: Ms. Delia Ruth del Rosario, Fruitella Cream Lollypop Brand Manager, school Principal Ms. Josephine Cruz and Ms. Gina Navarette, Greenwich General Manager.

Photos below: Rizal High Junior spikers whipped St Paul's Pasig 25-15, 25-14. Far right, OB Montessori GH beat Woodrose winning by 25 21, 25-16.

Soon!!

FRUITELLA CREAM LOLLYPOP CHEERDANCE COMPETITION
slated on
Dec. 11th and Dec. 12th.
This contest is open only to
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GREENWICH GVIT SCHOOL TEAM STANDINGS
(As of September 26, 2004)

GROUP A	W	L
Rizal High School	2	0
St. Francis School	1	0
OB Montessori Greenhills	1	0
Colegio San Agustin	1	0
Woodrose Alabang	0	1
Diliman Preparatory	0	1
St. Paul's College Pasig	0	1
Int'l. Christian School	0	2
Grace Christian School	x	x
Caritas Don Bosco	x	x
I C A Greenhills	x	x
Emilio Aguinaldo College	x	x
Southville Int'l. School	x	x

GROUP B	W	L
St. Mary's Academy Pasay	1	1
Olivarez College	1	1
Miriam College	1	0
St. Francis of Assisi Bacoor	1	0
JASMS	1	0
I C A Dasmarinas Cavite	1	0
OB Montessori Sta. Ana	0	1
Poveda Learning Center	0	1
Assumption College	0	1
Reedley's Int'l School	0	1
OB Montessori Las Pinas	x	x
Hope Christian School	x	x
St. Jude Catholic School	x	x

GVIT

GAME VENUES: (All games starts at 8:00 am)
Southville Int'l School - October 9, 10, November 27, 28 & 30
Assumption College - November 13, 14, 20 & 21
Rizal High School - December 11 & 12

Fruitella

New PBA ready to fly

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association opens its 30th season this Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum with officials looking forward to a new and memorable chapter in its status as Asia's first play-for-pay league.

"Thirty years is a long journey to keep the tradition going but it is also a time when things must suddenly change for the league to adapt with the present times," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday.

The PBA will test its new format, a two-conference, October-June schedule, after dumping the traditional three-conference calendar from February to December.

As promised, the league will hold out-of-town games in 20 cities in the Gran Matador One Philippines Cup alone.

"We want to visit missionary areas where the PBA has never been to. We hope to share the excitement of the PBA to the people," said PBA Chair Buddy Encarnado.

More importantly, the tournament will be part of a long-drawn process to select national team players for the ABC championships, the qualifying tournament for the World Championships and the Olympics.

Talk 'N Text and San Miguel Beer will launch the AFC when they battle in the 6 p.m. opener after an extravagant opening ceremony at the Big Dome.

The Beermen and the Phone Pals will also be the first to use the new ball—the Fiba-approved Molten GL7—which makes its basketball debut in the PBA. The ball is supposed to hit the market and other international arenas next year.

American Idol finalist Jasmine Trias was supposed to stand as the muse of Talk N Text, but begged off at the last minute due to a change of schedule in her Singapore commitment.

NCFP gets nod as voting member

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee general assembly yesterday unanimously pushed for the regular membership of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, giving Jose "Peping" Cojuangco another vote in his bid for the POC presidency.

No one objected to the resolution proposed by Cojuangco himself and seconded by sepak takraw's Mario Tanchangco shortly after incumbent POC head Celso Dayrit left the four-hour meeting to attend the 2005 Southeast Asian Games briefing with President Arroyo in Malacanang.

But POC chair Robert Aventajado said the move had the approval of POC legal counsel Toto Africa, a former official of the fencing association headed by Dayrit.

The NCFP is now headed by Go Teng Kok, also the president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, who is a known supporter of Cojuangco, the president of the equestrian federation.

The resolution is aimed at urging the POC executive council to reconsider its decision to bestow regular membership to the NCFP. The only stumbling block for the association, according to Aventajado, is the ``definition of the word regular" in the POC charter.

Only the regular members of the POC get to vote in the elections set in November.

Coaching clash

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I EXPECT La Salle to win today. But if Far Eastern University prevails, I won't be surprised.

Such is the situation in today's Game 3 of the best-of-three UAAP Finals that only a fool will say one team has the clear edge over the other.

In a no-more-tomorrow clash, everything evens up.

Statistics? They matter not anymore.

One has a deeper bench over the other? Baloney.

Maybe, if you tell me coach Franz Pumaren of La Salle has more experience than Koy Banal of Far Eastern University, I might agree.

But will experience be the final gauge in today's expected classic clash?

Pumaren has four UAAP titles to Banal's one.

Pumaren was in six of the last seven UAAP Finals.

Banal was in two of the last three UAAP Finals, including this year. Banal won the crown last year, beating his elder brother, Joel, in a stunning upset that dethroned the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

It didn't surprise me one bit when La Salle spanked FEU in Game 1, 58-51. La Salle's running game, backed up by a suffocating defense, was a carryover from the Archers' tactical maneuver that ousted the Eagles in the Final Four encounters.

But when the Tamaraws got back at the Archers in Game 2 in rip-roaring fashion, 67-57, I said, hey, what's happening here? How come FEU was able to give La Salle its own dose of medicine: Kill the enemy with the same blitzkrieg that the Archers employed in succession against the Eagles and Tamaraws?

With that win on Sunday, I had to raise a glass to Koy Banal. He, sure, knows how to devise a counter-attack a la General Patton. I'm beginning to think that, yes, the championship could be now deduced to a coaching clash: The better coach will win it.

Well, let's take a look at the players in their first two games.

MacMac Cardona, despite losing the MVP crown a second time, didn't sulk and went on to score a game-high 18 points in Game 2 on Sunday in a big followup to his 15 points in Game 1.

But while Cardona, edged out for the MVP honors by FEU's Arwind Santos, was super hot in Game 2, his 11 teammates fielded in were terribly cold as Siberian wind in winter. Cardona was the only double-digit performer in Game 2, a far cry from the Game 1 results where his teammates Arana and Yeo had scored 16 and 10, respectively. Arana was limited to only 4 points in Game 2 and Yeo managed only 8.

In contrast, FEU had three or more players scoring in double figures in both Games 1 and 2. Santos had 14, and Rizada and Miranda had 10 apiece in Game 1. In Game 2, Rizada had 13, Chan 11, and Santos and Miranda 10 each.

In short, while La Salle leaned mostly on Cardona for the big points, FEU was dishing out a well-balance assault from its gunners in both contests. That means FEU is more consistent with its firepower than La Salle.

What surprised me was the complete reversal of roles happening in Game 2.

In Game 1, La Salle prevailed by capturing the first three quarters-24-10, 39-26, 53-38. La Salle coasted along in the fourth quarter, scoring only 5 to FEU's 13 for the final 58-51 count.

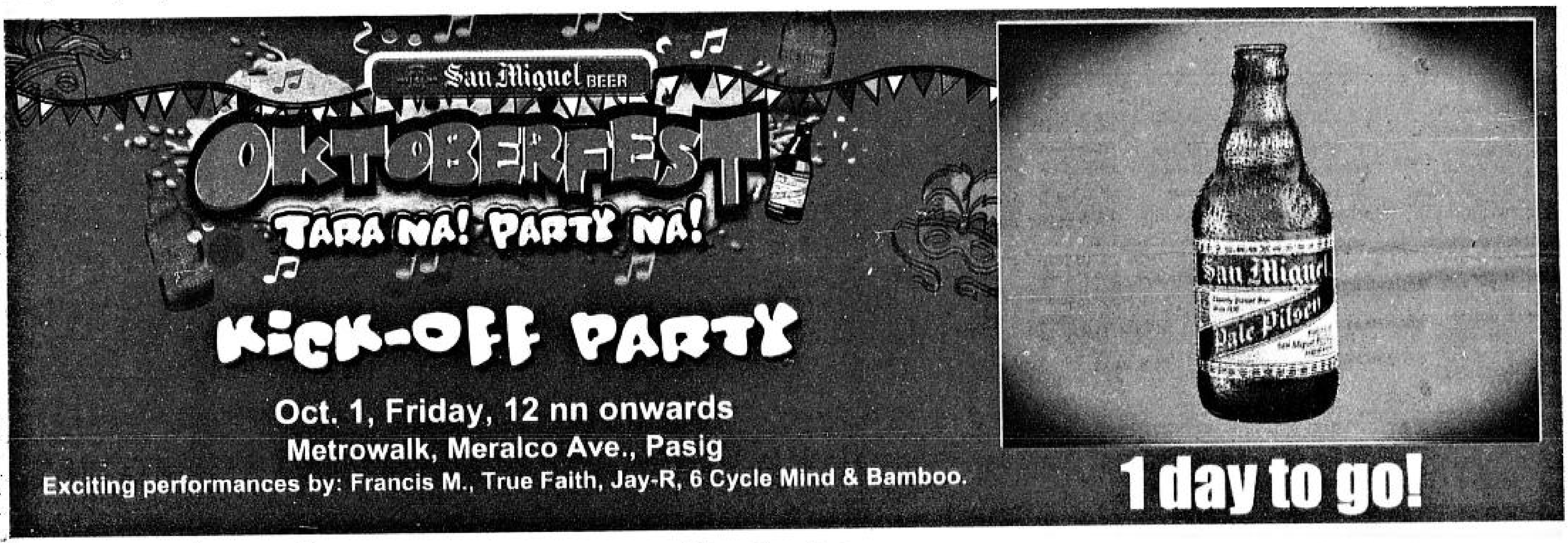
In Game 2, it was a complete reverse. FEU even played better, winning all four quarters-18-14, 42-32, 50-48, 67-57. The Tamaraws even poured on the heat in the final quarter, 17 points to La Salle's 10.

I noticed that in both games, La Salle had the tendency to slow down—conk out?—in the final quarter: Just 5 in Game 1 and 10 in Game 2. Thus, if La Salle hopes to pocket its fifth UAAP crown in the last eight years, it must have a real finishing kick in the mold of a thoroughbred gunning not only for the Kentucky Derby but also the Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

Otherwise, FEU will repeat its Game 2 brilliance and will just walk away with its second straight UAAP crown minutes after sundown today.

***

FASTBREAK. I commiserate with my hometown buddy, Julian F. Apostol, who lost 300 cavans of rice during the recent typhoon-triggered floods that struck Pangasinan. Many more among my townmates were victims of the calamity, some of them losing an entire harvest financed by—yes, they still exist—loan sharks. Pity our farmers, indeed.



Oct. 1, Friday, 12 nn onwards
Metrowalk, Meralco Ave., Pasig
Exciting performances by: Francis M., True Faith, Jay-R, 6 Cycle Mind & Bamboo.

People, Events & Products

Managing environmental risks in bank lending

A CONFERENCE to discuss the managing of environmental risks involved in bank lending will be held on Oct. 21, at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City. The conference cum seminar-workshop entitled, "Greening the Financial Sector" will be held under the joint auspices of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP), the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB) and the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines (BMAP). Topics include environmental due diligence and management in lending, environmental criteria for asset management, environmental performance indicators, and other related subjects. Conference fee is P2,500 which includes conference materials, snacks and lunch at the Dusit Hotel. For inquiries and reservations, contact Sandy Lim of ADFIAP at 844-2424 and 844-9090 or Mitzi Busmente at 920-0074.

Serendra open house

MORE choices for discerning homebuyers are likely to set Serendra sales on the upswing again as it launches its new sections on Oct. 2 and 3 at a grand two-day Open House at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. Serendra, Ayala Land Inc (ALI)'s unique residential community comprised of clusters of low to mid-rise condominium sections, opens its newest phase in District 1 boasting of bigger units to cater to growing families while allowing them to enjoy its beautiful gardens, with over 85 percent of the units having views of the sprawling greenery. Serendra is the newest residential development of Ayala Land Inc (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc (CII) at the Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call 848-500 or email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph.

Circulan Banigs promo

CIRCULAN 4-in-1 Dietary Herbal Supplement together with Magandang Umaga Bayan, will launch a rewarding nationwide campaign for its loyal patrons. Consumers are encouraged to keep and collect their Circulan blister packs or "banig" and wait for the formal announcement of the complete promo details over MUB on Oct. 1.

Panaf's diploma program

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers Foundation (Panaf) offers the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Marketing Communications Management, in partnership with De La Salle - College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB). The certificate courses are: Market Research and Planning, Sept. 18 to Oct. 23; Brand Equity, Nov. 6 to Dec. 11; PR and Advocacy Marketing, Jan. 29 to March 5, 2005; Customer Relationship and Marketing, March 19 to April 23, 2005; Dynamics of Marketing Services, May 6 to June 11, 2005; Integrated Marketing Communications, (participants must take 3 other courses before taking this course) June 25 to July 30; Course fee is P8,500 for Pana members amd P9,000 for non-members. The courses are held every Saturday from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the International Conference Center of DLS-CSB, Taft Avenue, Manila. For inquiries, contact Me-Ann at (02)523-8888 loc. 341 or Lani Vinas at (02)894-0475, 894-0012.

'Dream Cruise Raffle'

ALABANG Hills Village is holding a "Dream Cruise Raffle" for its community and beautification projects with spectacular prizes at stake. The grand prize is a round trip airfare ticket for 2 to Singapore before you board the Star Cruise luxury ship "Virgo" for a 4-dy all inclusive "Star Cruises" holiday. The 2nd prize is a 4D/3N package holiday for two persons to the enchanted island paradise of Bali, inclusive of airfare and accommodations. 3rd prize is a trip to El Nido resort in Palawan, also for two persons inclusive of airfare and accommodations. There will be a total of ten big prizes raffled to all ticket holders on the awards night, Nov. 6. at the clubhouse. The tickets are priced at P1,000 each and one can avail of a 10 percent discount if paid for by Sept. 30. All ticket holders will also be given free booth space at the Oct. 16 "Tiangge-Salu-Salo sa Park" pre Christmas bazaar. For reservations call the Ahva clubhouse at 850-8254.

'Build an Amazing Future'

SUN Life Financial Plans Inc in cooperation with Nestle Phils offer the "Build an Amazing Future" raffle promo. By purchasing specially marked Nestle products from any Rustan's Supermarket, shoppers have the chance to win fabulous prizes for their children. The grand prize is a Sun Life Education Plan with total education benefits amounting to close to a million pesos. First prize is another Sun Life Education plan with benefits of nearly half a million pesos. Other prizes include: personal computers, VTEC educational toys and gift cheques from Rustan's Supermarket. Promo runs until Oct. 15.

Bits & Clips

BPI-Western appliance exhibit

VISIT BPI-Western appliance exhibit at entertainment center, basement level, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. Experience the real zero-interest installment plan from 3 to 12 months. Choose from their widest selection of the latest in electronics and household appliance available at the most comfortable terms. Until Oct. 5 only.

'Mano Po, Ica': Homecoming

"MANO Po, ICA", a grand silver jubilee celebration of the Immaculate Concepcion Academy (Greenhills) class '79 will be held on Nov. 20. Come in your best casual chic outfit and get the chance to be chosen Homecoming Queen. Win exciting raffle prizes including P200,000 cash and a Singapore/Cebu trip package plus many more. Tickets are priced at P500 and will be available at the ICA Alumnae Office starting Oct. 1. Call tel. no. 721-2687 and look for Joy or Ria. Registration starts at 3 p.m. Venue will be the Delia Tetrault Aerts and Sports Center at Ica Greenhills. Proceeds from the affair will benefit the ICA Scholarship Fund.

GTF presents Pepe en Pilar

GTF in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) takes a peek in the pastel colored world as seen by kids, as it presents Pepe en Pilar, a magical adventure of these small wonders set in an abandoned garage. Performances are slated on Oct. 1 to 3, Nov. 19 to 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saint Cecilia's Hall of the Saint Scholastica's College; Oct. 8 to 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AFP Theater, Quezon City. For tickets and sponsorships, call 899-5745 and 896-3503, the GTF Marketing Office.

Marikina Foods joins expo

MARIKINA Foods, joins the 8th Culinary Kitchen and Food Expo at the Glorietta Activity Center from Oct. 1 to 4. Their booths at #21 and #22 offer free tasting and retailing at factory prices, and will launch its latest product - Takami Special Bihon. For more information on the food expo, call Philfair at 426-8018 and 454-8292.

SPORTSWATCH

Asuncions join RLC badminton tilt

SIBLINGS Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion highlight the Partners Cup 2004, the badminton tournament of the Robinsons Land Corporation. The two will play an exhibition match along with Puri Setyo, Indonesia's former national player. The RLC tilt was organized to bolster sports development and promote the health and fitness of the business partners of Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC). At least 250 participants and guests comprising officials, contractors and suppliers of RLC are expected to participate in the friendly one-day tournament to be held at the Asuncion Badminton Center, located along P. Guevarra Street near Wilson Street, San Juan, on Oct. 2, Saturday. Sports broadcast journalist Anthony Suntay will be the special master of ceremonies at the closing and awarding ceremonies.

Migba sets rich P3M derby

THE 2004 Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (Migba) P3-million 7-stag derby kicks off today at the Davao Matina Gallera as the first 80 entries vie for the championship set on Oct. 9. The event continues with the second day of the four separate elimination scuffle on Oct. 2 also at Davao Matina Gallera. Action shifts to the Casino Filipino Davao with the third and fourth stages of the qualifying rounds on Oct. 4 & 6 , respectively. All entries garnering a top score of two points lock horns on Oct. 8 at the Gallera for the 4-stag insurance round while all participants with 2.5 and 3 points clash for the championship. Entry entry fee is P16,000.

RP cyclists stamp mark in Indonesia

THE RP-Pagcor Casino Filipino Trade Team made more inroads in the Dji Sam Seo Tour of Indonesia cycling classic in the second stage from Banduang to Tasikmalaya on Tuesday. Lloyd Reynante finished third with a three-man second pack, covering the rolling 119.8-kilometer run in three hours and 12 seconds flat to highlight a fruitful day for the Filipino riders. He was 3:04 behind Afghan stage champion Yevkeniy Yakovlev (2:57.08) of the Poligon Sweet Nice Pro Team and Dutchman Edmund Hollands of the Giant Asia Racing Team, who crossed the finish line in a dead heat with Reynante. Checking in with the huge 40-man third group were Albert Primero, Rhyan Tanguilig and Bernard Luzon.

CHEERING CHAMPIONS **The University of Santo Tomas Salinggawi Dance Troupe, which won the cheerdance competition of the 67th UAAP season, visits the LA Gear boutique in Market Market at The Fort. LA Gear is the official sponsor of the three-peat champions for two years now.**

Coseteng keeps lead

HAVOLINE Racing Team's Jody Coseteng kept his cool and the lead despite an accident-marred 10th round of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, recently.

Coseteng was in firm control of Round 10 when his Honda Civic was bumped from behind by Enzo Pastor.

The Formula 1 aspirant took advantage and seized the lead from the four-time Driver of the Year, whose car was then up in smoke. Pastor won the race.

Coseteng, who is backed by strong sponsors Caltex Havoline and San Mig Strong Ice, quickly pulled over and got out of his car.

But the Havoline Team, through its team captain Oscar Aguilar, was contemplating filing a protest for the infraction by Pastor.

Despite the misfortune, Coseteng was able to keep his hold on the premier N1 lead, toting 91 points to the 88 of the second-running Rey Reyes. Erstwhile second placer Dominic Bon slipped to third with an 87.

Mendoza stuns Jao

ROSARIO, Batangas—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance made a costly error, paving the way for a big upset by Speedeffex's Benjo Mendoza last weekend in the fifth leg of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Jao, also backed up by Kawasaki and Rolex Engineering, committed two crucial lapses that put him 16 seconds behind Mendoza.

Mendoza clocked 21:07.509 in the 10-lap race and posted the fastest lap time of 1:40.200 in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association (Namssa) and sponsored by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Hon. Rosario Uriarte, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Toyota Motors Philippines, Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors and MOF Company.

Equally exciting was the Yokohama Miata Cup where Bubi Camus, Romy Mercado and Alfie Rufino upstaged their respective rivals.

Galang sizzles

THE THIRD round of the 2004 Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship series saw Joey Galang keep his Pro class title at Clarkfield, Pampanga. Galang of MOGH speed beat Jeng Figueras of Showtime in the eliminations and then trounced Francis Lim of Autolimits in the finals.

Cabspeed's TJ Pangilinan won the Sportsman Class of the event organized by Activity Asia Association.

Marathon on Oct. 24

MANILA Sports Council (Masco) chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza yesterday assured a more active involvement by the Big City in giving support to the country's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games next year.

According to the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the 2nd Manila Marathon slated Oct. 24 kicks off preparations by the country's premiere city one year before the biennial meet returns to Manila after 14 years.

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RAISING HELEN

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12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/4:35/5:50/6:25/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

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SM City Bicutan
SM Supercenter Sucat
SM City Bacoor
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SM Megamall
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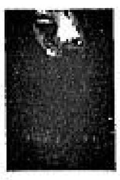
SM City Cebu
SM City Tutuban
SM City Pampanga



EXORCIST MTRCB Rating: R13

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SM City Sta. Mesa
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SM City Southmall
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FAHRENHEIT 9/11 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Manila
SM Megamall
SM City North EDSA
SM City Sta. Mesa

MTRCB Rating: PG13 **FENG SHUI**

SM City Manila
SM City North EDSA
SM Megamall
SM City Fairview
SM City Dasmariñas
SM City Bicutan
SM City Pampanga
SM City Davao
SM City Tutuban
SM Supercenter Sucat
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM City Southmall
SM City Bacoor
SM City Cebu
SM City Cagayan
SM City Lucena
SM City Baguio
SM City Marilao

RAISING HELEN MTRCB Rating: GP

SM City Manila
SM City North EDSA
SM City Fairview
SM Supercenter Sucat
SM City Southmall
SM City Bacoor
SM City Bicutan
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM Megamall

MTRCB Rating: R13 **RESIDENT EVIL**

SM City Manila
SM City North EDSA
SM City Davao
SM Megamall
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM City Southmall
SM City Cebu
SM City Bicutan
SM Supercenter Sucat
SM City Tutuban
SM City Bacoor

SECRET WINDOW MTRCB Rating: R13

SM City Southmall
SM City Manila
SM City North EDSA
SM Megamall
SM City Fairview
SM City Tutuban
SM City Sta. Mesa

MTRCB Rating: GP **THE TERMINAL**

SM Fairview
SM City Tutuban
SM City Davao
SM City Lucena
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM Southmall
SM Bacoor
SM City Manila
SM City North Edsa
SM City Megamall

MTRCB Rating: PG13 **13 GOING ON 30**

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SM Megamall
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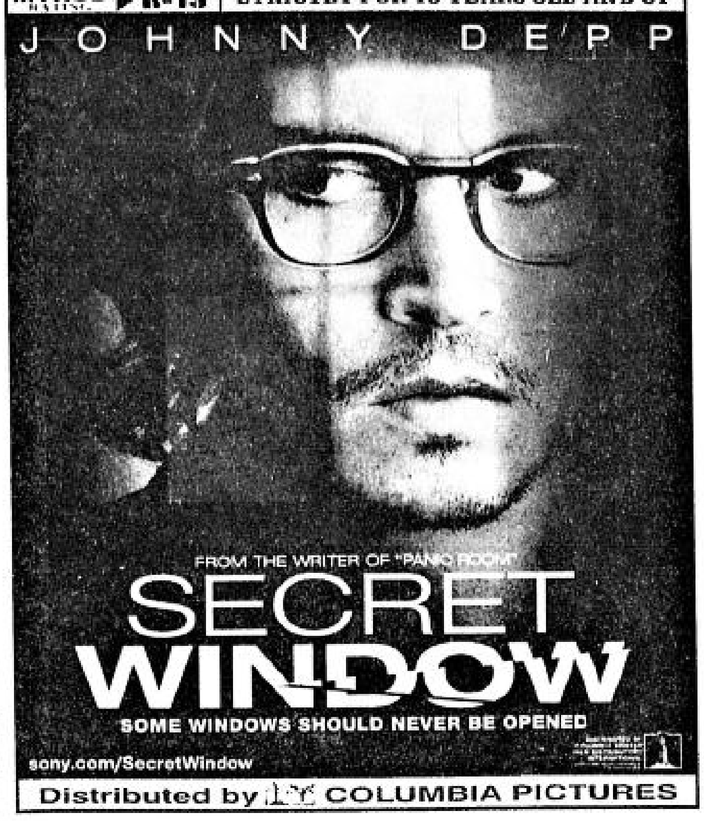
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4 (SDDS) SECRETARY
5 FENG SHUI
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7 (DTS) CRISANTA... IBA KA
8 RESERVE
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3 SECRET WINDOW
4 FENG SHUI
5 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
6 RAISING HELEN

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2 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 GOLD (DTS) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 GOLD (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
6 GOLD (SDDS) RAISING HELEN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SECRET WINDOW
8 (DTS) DODGEBALL
9 (SDDS) THE TERMINAL
10 (DTS) 13 GOING ON 30

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2 CRISANTA... IBA KA
3 BIKTIMA
4 (DTS) ACACIA

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4 BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 FENG SHUI

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2 13 GOING ON 30
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 (DOLBY) FENG SHUI

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 MIND HUNTERS
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Berma Cinema
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1 CRISANTA... IBA KA
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP

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China and Wowie together

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MOST of the guests at my birthday bash were surprised to see **China Cojuangco** arrive with **Wowie de Guzman**. It prompted curious minds to ask if there's something going on between them.

All China had to say to all the paparazzi around was, "No comment." She's got too much class to be affected by the ribbing. She and Wowie obviously enjoy each other's company and that's that.

The last time I saw Wowie was during his stint with the Universal Motion Dancers. I'm glad he's back in the groove now after his love team with Judy Ann Santos lost its steam. He told me that a new batch of UMD will be launched soon. I asked him why he was with China that night. He smiled and said, "She said it was OK for me to go with her. We're doing a stage play together."

But due to conflict of schedule, Wowie will no longer be with China in the play "Pepe en Pilar," where China plays the role of a poor little rich girl named Sheryl. "I end up making friends with kids from different social classes," China said of her role.

People who don't know China that well would easily conclude that her role is almost true-to-life. But her close friends know that she's no material girl who's out of touch with reality.

"I've learned how to live a simple life and actually enjoy it," she said. "It doesn't take millions to find real friends and appreciate life."

She just happens to be born rich although even without all the material trappings, she's truly a beautiful person inside out.

Catch China the natural stage actress in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "Pepe en Pilar," showing today, Sept. 30, at 2 p.m., Oct 2 at 12 noon at St. Scholastica's College, and Oct. 8 and 9 at AFP Theater.

Will Wowie be around to give China a standing ovation? See for yourself, folks.

Ogie's stall

OGIE Alcasid is ecstatic about the success of his new business venture, the Ogie Dogie hotdog stall at Market! Market! at the Global City in Taguig. When he has time, Ogie personally attends to customers and even cooks the hotdogs himself.

"I enjoy mingling with the crowd," he said. "I'd like to believe that when it comes to hotdogs, we are the gourmet! We add a twist to the regular hotdogs."

Aside from his hotdog biz, Ogie is preparing for his Music Museum concert in October.

"It's called 'I am a Singer' to remind people that singing is my first love," he said. "It's also fulfilling to be a songwriter and I'm happy that my compositions have been sung by great artists. For a change, I won't be singing most of my original compositions in the Music Museum show but songs that have touched my heart in one way or another."

OGIE Alcasid

Ogie is truly a songwriter and singer non pareil. But for me, he is a true friend first and foremost.

'Jr Newswatch'

I STARTED my TV career as a newscaster on RPN-9's "Newswatch Junior Edition" when I was still in grade school. I owe a lot to that show. That's why I'm delighted that RPN-9 is reviving "Junior Newswatch" this October.

The initial telecast will feature our batch of newscasters including **Rina Reyes**, **Andre Castillo** (of The Company), **Janice de Belen**, **Michael Uytengsu** (the former Alaska Boy), **Jobert Abueva** and many others.

"Newswatch Junior Edition" is the best way to orient young formative minds with what's happening all over the globe. They will also be spared from the controversial presentation of most of our local news programs. The headlines will be delivered by kids, too. It's time our kids watch something worthwhile instead of just watching MTV and being glued to their cell phones and computers.

Jasmine's coming

"AMERICAN Idol" sensation **Jasmine Trias** is finally coming home next week. For sure she will get a heroine's welcome.

I heard that she will be staying only for a couple of days to promote McDonald's, Her Bench and Smart. With all the clamor for her, I wonder how she would be able to not get enticed to extend her stay in the Philippines.

I got a copy of a CD of her McDo theme, "Love Ko 'To," composed by **Jimmy Antiporda**, when I attended the McDonald's Owners and Operators "One Night Only" affair with the youngest franchisee, **Allan Ranola**. No doubt the McDo jingle as sung by Jasmine will sell more burgers.

Maegan and Flower Child

CATCH sultry **Maegan Aguilar** and her cool band Flower Child tonight at Ponticello on Valero Street in Makati, Oct. 16 at Bloo Gum Café at Rivercity Arcade in Marikina Heights, and Oct. 15 at Red Door Pasig.

Thank you

KAMSAHAMNEDA to all my mom's "loyalists" and friends who joined our family in remembering my "SuperwoMom" during her "first birthday in heaven" last Sept. 26. Truly there is love even after death.

Wherever we are, Mom is there also.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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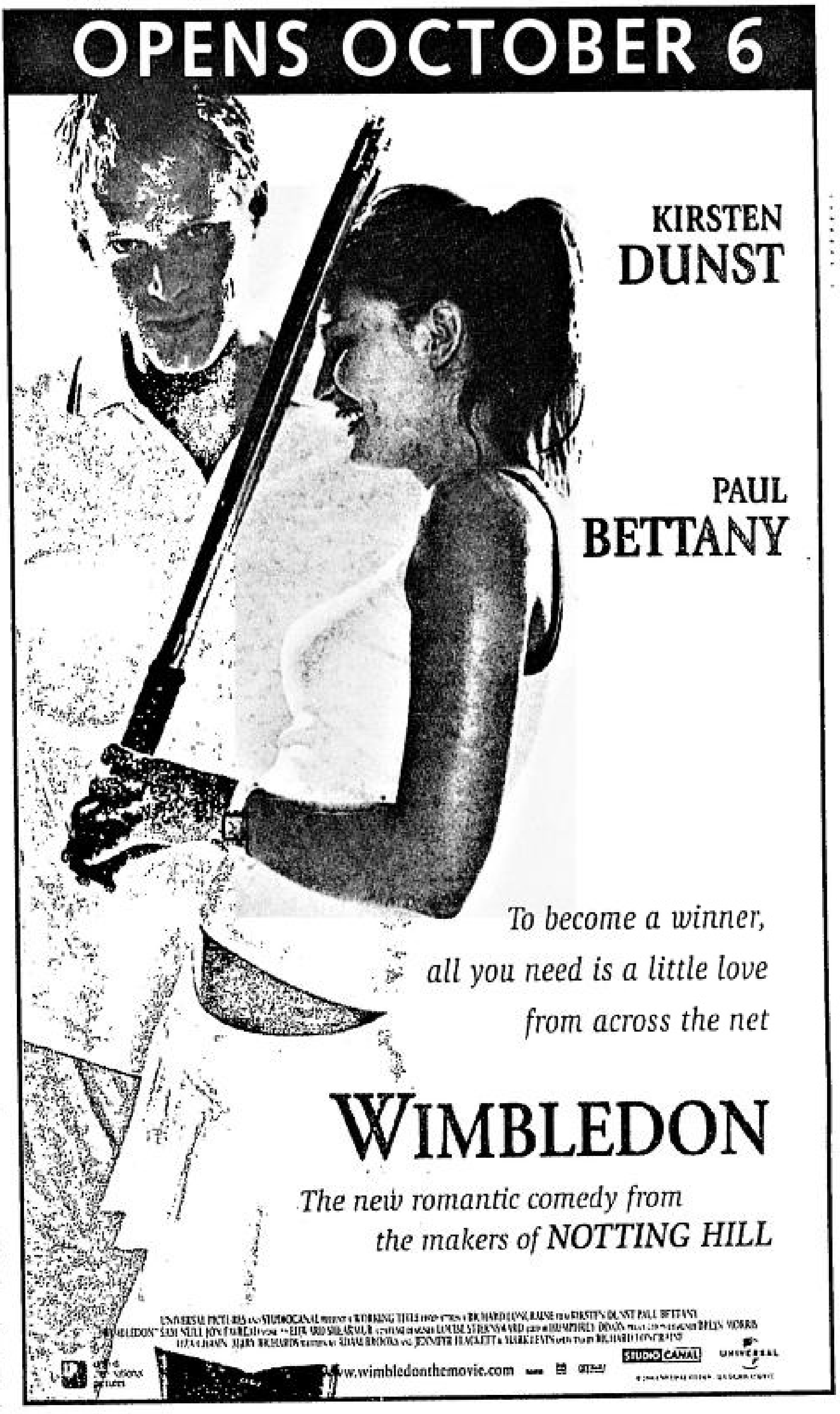
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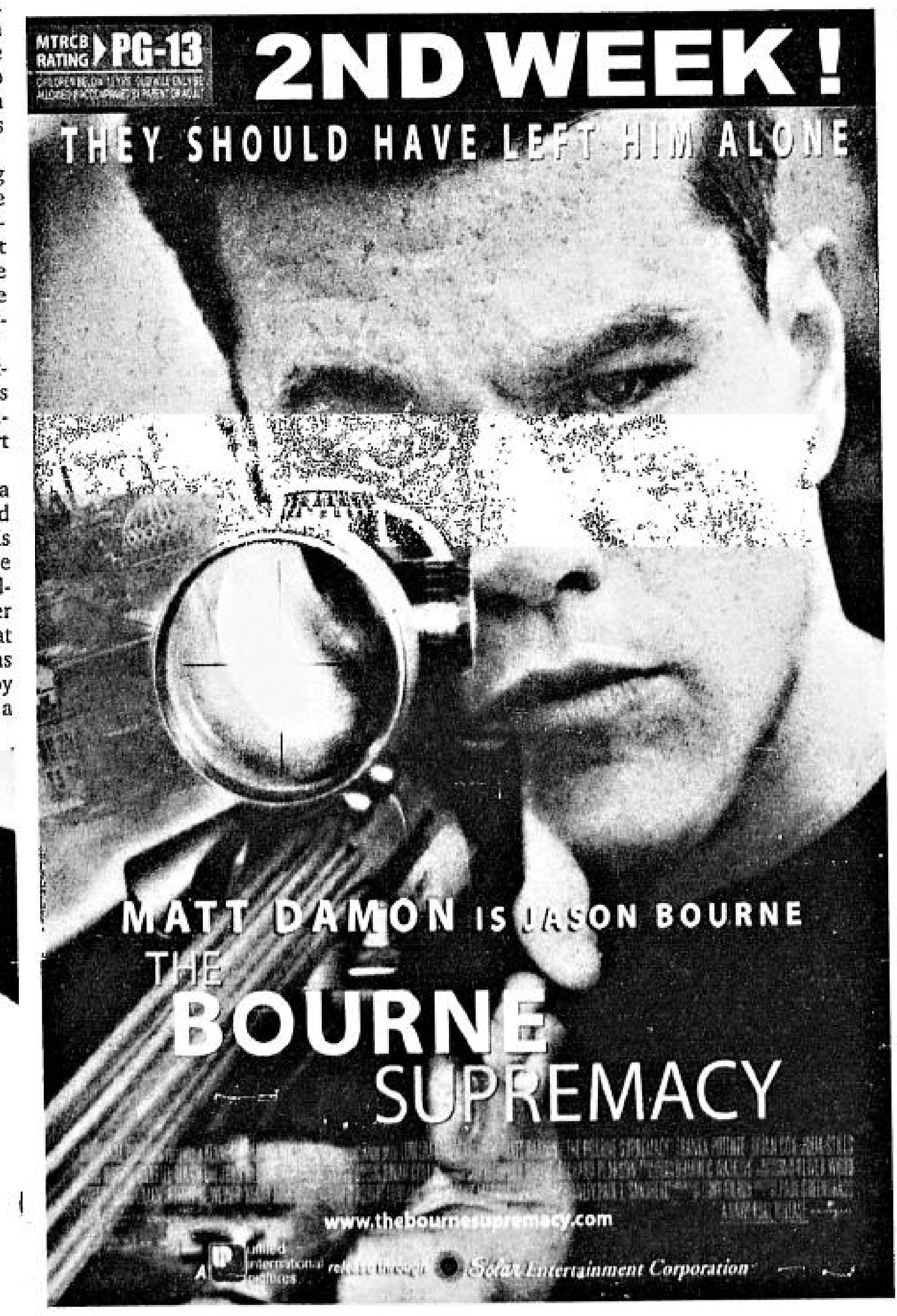
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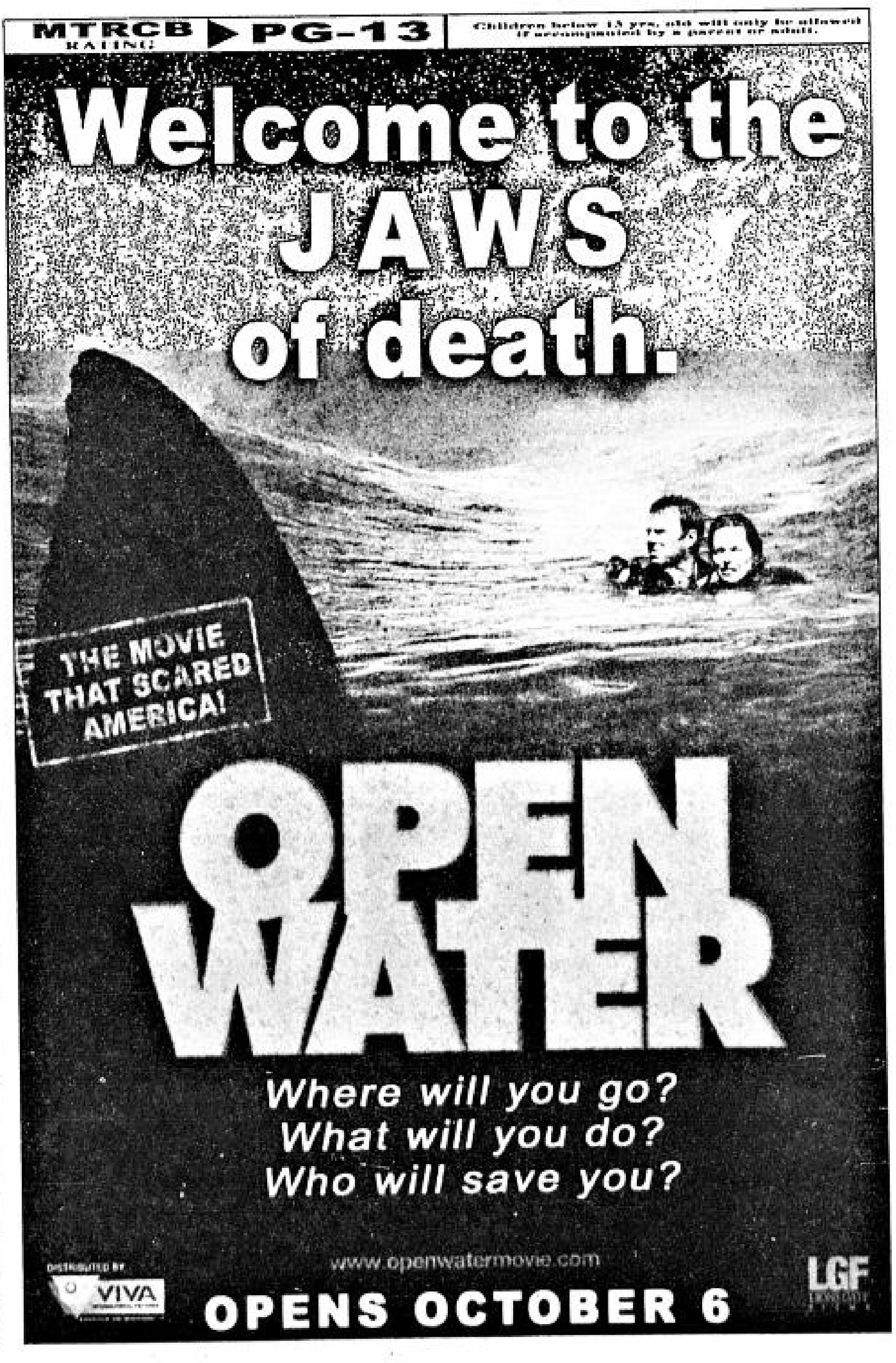
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2 RESIDENT EVIL 2	3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	4 SECRET WINDOW
5 RAISING HELEN	6 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	7 FAHRENHEIT 9/11
8 FENG SHUI	9 THE TERMINAL	10 THE NOTEBOOK

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ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 RESIDENT EVIL 2

2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	4 FAHRENHEIT 9/11
5 SECRET WINDOW	6 FENG SHUI	7 RAISING HELEN

METRO EAST
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1 THE TERMINAL	2 SECRET WINDOW

3 RESIDENT EVIL 2	4 RAISING HELEN	5 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
6 KRISANTA...IBA KA	7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	8 FENG SHUI

NOVALICHES
935-3229 / 31

1	RESIDENT EVIL 2
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5	RESIDENT EVIL 2
6	SECRET WINDOW
7	RAISING HELEN
8	SAVED

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2	FENG SHUI
3	HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
4	KRISANTA...IBA KA

CAINTA
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1	RAISING HELEN
2	FENG SHUI
3	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4	KRISANTA...IBA KA

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1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	SAVED
3	JANDARA
4	FENG SHUI
5	MINDHUNTERS

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1	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3	MINDHUNTERS
4	TAKAW TINGIN
5	FENG SHUI

DASMARIÑAS
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1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	TAKAW TINGIN
3	SAVED
4	FENG SHUI
5	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

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1	DODGEBALL
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

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1	TAKAW-TINGIN
2	DODGEBALL
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE BOURNE SUPHEMACY
5	THE NOTEBOOK
6	13 GOING ON 30

IMUS
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1	HEAVEN'S POND
2	RAISING HELEN
3	KRISANTA...IBA KA
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	FENG SHUI
6	SAVED

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

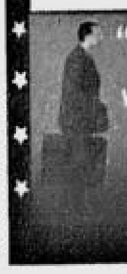
1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	TAG-INIT
3	THE TERMINAL
4	DODGEBALL
5	JANDARA
6	MINDHUNTERS

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	THE NOTEBOOK
3	FENG SHUI
4	THE TERMINAL
5	TAG-INIT
6	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS

RESIDENT EVIL

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD



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	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THX RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	RAISING HELEN	GUARANTEED SEATS THX RAISING HELEN 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
2	RAISING HELEN	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	SECRET WINDOW	GUARANTEED SEATS THX RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE 2 20, 4 35, 6 50, 9 05, 11 20	13 GOING ON 30
3	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	RAISING HELEN	GUARANTEED SEATS THX THE BOURNE ... 1 10, 3 30, 5 50, 8 10, 10 30	GUARANTEED SEATS FAHRENHEIT 9 / 11 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20	DODGEBALL
4	FENG SHUI	FENG SHUI	THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS SECRET WINDOW 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5	SECRET WINDOW		FENG SHUI	GUARANTEED SEATS THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30	FENG SHUI
6			RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE		
7			FAHRENHEIT 9 / 11		

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1	FAHRENHEIT 9 / 11 11:40, 2 10, 4 40, 7:10, 9:40
2	RAISING HELEN 11:40, 2 10, 4 40, 7 10, 9 40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
RX 93.1 DANCE COMPETITION Sept 29 ANGELA BOFILL LIVE! September 30 (6 30pm)	PHILIPPINE ROBOTICS FINALS October 1 DISNEY'S ART ATTACK October 2	PHIL. NURSES ASSOCIATION 68TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY HEALTH FAIR (Sept 27) JOB FAIR (Sept 29)

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) [illegible]	NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 16-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

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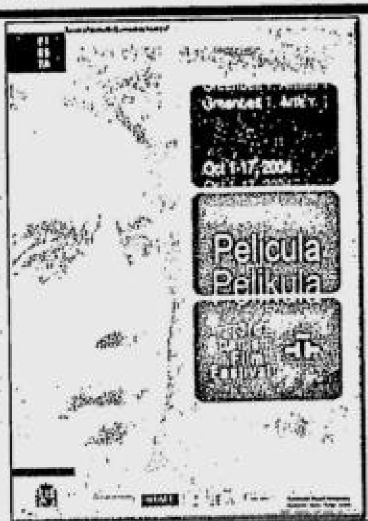

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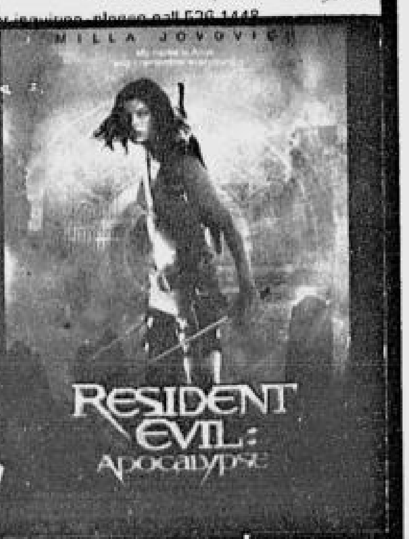

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Worldwide Night of Sleep on Cartoon Network

FOR THE first time in its history, Cartoon Network will replace its regular programming from midnight of Oct. 1 to 6 a.m. on Oct. 2 with a sleep-inducing program that could put even the biggest insomniac to a deep, comfortable slumber.

Between midnight and 6 a.m., Sheep, the star of the Cartoon Network original series "Sheep in the Big City," will jump repeatedly across the TV screen to lull restless viewers of all ages to sleep. Commenting on his one-of-a-kind stunt, Sheep said, "baaah!" In other words, "If you can't sleep, count Sheep!"

Cartoon Network hopes that kids and parents who tune in to the Worldwide Night of Sleep will wake up the next morning fully refreshed, recharged, and ready for the active and exciting activities the network have planned for the weekend.

The Worldwide Night of Sleep is Cartoon Network's way of encouraging kids to adopt a healthy sleeping pattern, and thus achieve a balanced life.

Cartoon Network Philippines reached 93 percent of cable kids in the second quarter of 2004 and led all cable networks for 10 quarters in a row, according to a Cartoon Network statement.

The Network attracts teens and young adults, said the statement. Stunts like Mother's Day Kiss Alert and programming blocks like Toons-si-log, Freaky Friday, Brain Power Hour and Toonami consistently made Cartoon Network the highest rated ad-supported cable in the corresponding time brands for cable kids in the second quarter, it added.

Let us now...

From page A27

very special place.

Workshops

FROM Oct. 18 to 22, the Development Academy of the Philippines will hold the Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops.

The courses are for professionals and students who want to hone their craft as director, producer, actor, scriptwriter, DJ, VJ, graphic designer, communicator or media expert.

Boboy Yonzon is the workshop director, and lecturers include Nick Tayag, Tato Malay, Joey Tanedo, Barry Jose and Ray Junia.

Call 925-1915 or email workshop@info.com.ph.

Let us now thank and honor Ryan Cayabyab

From page A28

new project was.

We told him about "Magnificat" and the difficulty we were experiencing, and Basil volunteered to ask Ryan to do the music.

We explained to Basil that the musical had no producer and thus no money, and was conceptualized as a labor of love for everyone involved.

But Basil said he would try, anyway—and Ryan, who turned out to be a Marian devotee, instantly said yes.

When the musical finally started its run, Ryan's powerful, sensitive and very moving music was hailed as masterwork, and the show was performed all over the country, and in all sorts of venues—schools, homes, slum communities, prisons, basketball courts, the Araneta Coliseum, and even at an El Shaddai gathering, with hundreds of thousands of people in rapt attendance.

"Magnificat" also set a record for the biggest number of performances, 160 to date, a tribute to the spirituality and emotive power of Ryan's music.

We've done other significant shows with Ryan, and we are in fact working together on a new project, but we got to know and admire him even more when he invited us, along with **Philip Cu-Unjieng**, to join him and his wife **Emy** when he flew to Athens, Greece two years ago to accept his second prize trophy in the prestigious Aristotle Onassis international music composition competition.

We cheered as Ryan received his award in glittering rites attended by important artists and political personages from all over Europe, and our pride in Filipino talent took a quantum leap.

Already esteemed in his country, Ryan was now proving that he was truly a world-class talent.

And yet, even more impressively, he has remained grounded, balanced and humble, using his talent not to puff up his ego, but to serve, entertain and move his audience.

When Ryan was recently nominated for the prestigious Gawad CCP artistic award for music, we vigorously boosted his cause.

Some others said that, at "only" 50, he was too young to win the lifetime achievement honor, but we pointed out that Ryan was so prodigiously productive that he had done more for the world of music than many other composers decades older than him.

For these and other reasons, we urge you to honor and thank Ryan Cayabyab by going out of your way to catch his "golden" musical retrospective at the CCP's Main Theater on Oct. 15 and 16. Call the CCP at 832-1125.

New series

CARTOON Network's new animated series "Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends" debuted last Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. with a 90-minute Cartoon Theater feature.

Created by **Craig McCracken** of "The Powerpuff Girls," "Foster's Home" is a 30-minute comedy about friendship, adventure and fun among a crew of humans and Imaginary Friends who live together in a

LET/ A26

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	12.10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
4	SDDS FENG SHUI	11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts BOURNE SUPREMACY	12.00 pm 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby KRISANTA IBA KA	11:55 am 2:05 pm4:15 pm 6:25 pm 8:35 pm
7	Dolby SECRET WINDOW	12:00 pm 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 30	LA SALLE vs FEU
Oct 2	UAAP vs NCAA ALL STAR GAME
Oct 3	PBA ALL FILIPINO OPENING GAMES
Oct 6	PBA ALL FILIPINO GAMES
Oct 8	BASIL VALDEZ & RICO PUNO CONCERT
Oct 9	ALICIA KEYS 2004 WORLD TOUR
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KRISANTA IBA KA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TAKAW TINGIN
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK/THE TERMINAL/PRINCESS DIARIES 2/DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SAVED
CINEMA-2	KRISANTA, IBA KA
CINEMA-3	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HEAVEN'S POND
CINEMA-6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-7	KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-8	DON'T TEMPT ME (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RAISING HELEN
CINEMA-12	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-14	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	TERMINAL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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CINEMA 1
RAISING HELEN
11:50, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15
GP

CINEMA 2
RESIDENT EVIL 2
11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
R13

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Feng Shui

METROPOLIS star ALABANG
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Bourne Supremacy
Krisanta
Secret Window
Feng Shui
Resident Evil 2
Raising Helen

starmall LAS PINAS
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1	BOURNE SUPREMACY	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:20	PG-13
2	RESIDENT EVIL 2	10:30, 1:00, 3:20 5:45, 8:10, 11:00	R-13
3	SECRET WINDOW	10:45, 1:00, 3:15 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	R-13
4	RAISING HELEN	12:10, 2:55, 5:40 8:25, 11:10	GP

SHANG CINEPLEX

1	RAISING HELEN	FS : 10:40 AM, 1:15 PM, 3:50 PM, 6:25 PM LMF : 9:00 PM (GP)
2	FAHRENHEIT 9/11	FS : 10:30 AM, 1:05 PM, 3:40 PM, 6:15 PM LMF : 9:00 PM (PG - 13)
3	SECRET WINDOW	FS : 11:55 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:25 PM, 6:40 PM LMF : 9:00 PM (R-13)
4	RESIDENT EVIL 2	FS : 11:40 AM, 1:55 PM, 4:10 PM, 6:25 PM 8:40 PM, LMF : 10:50 PM (R - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE	BOURNE SUPREMACY	FS 11:10PM 1:20PM 3:30PM 5:40PM 7:50PM, LMF 10PM (PG - 13)

For more information, please call 633-2227 / 633-7961 loc. 171
Shangri-la Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA
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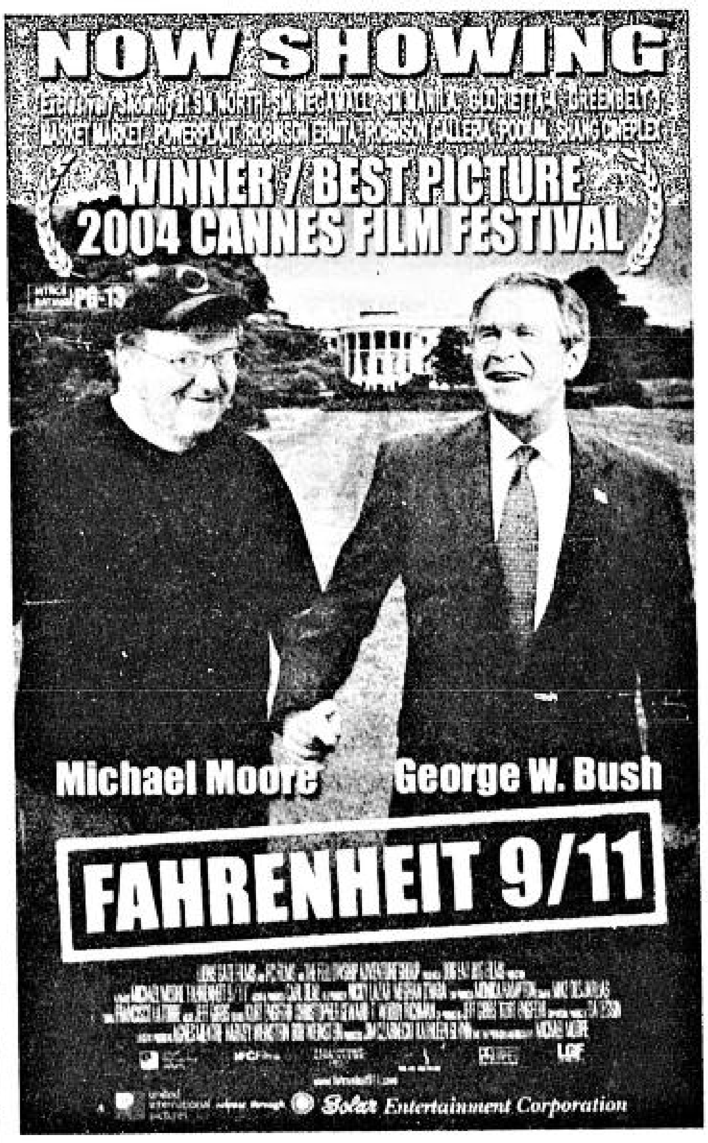
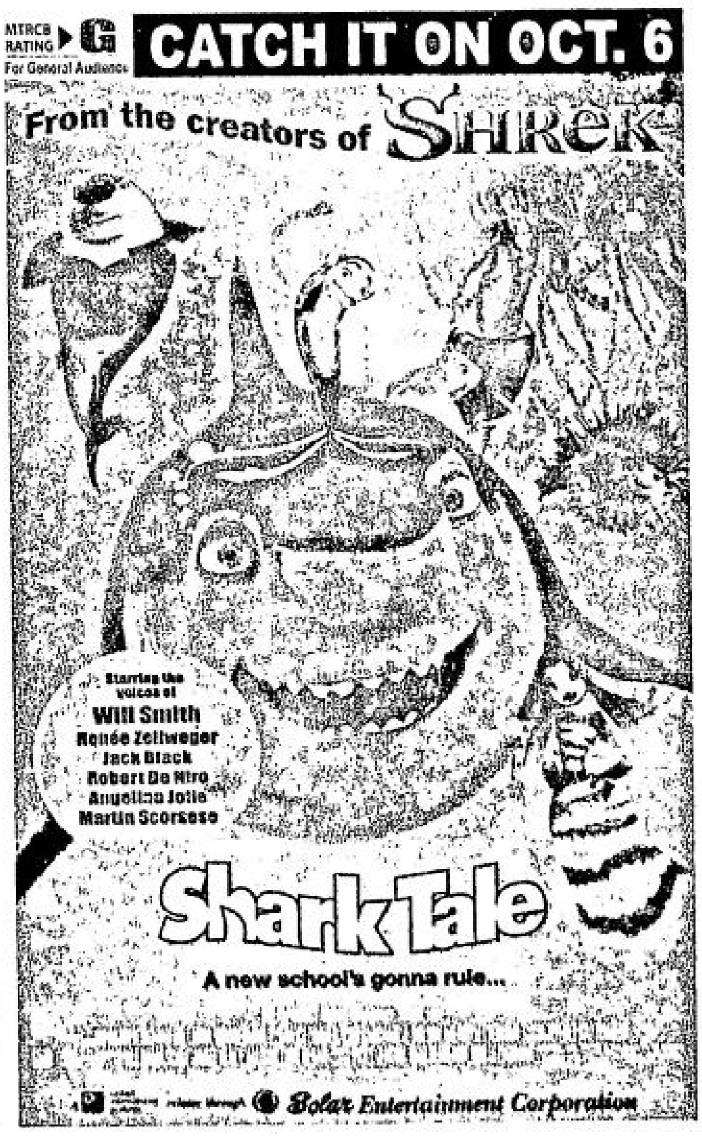
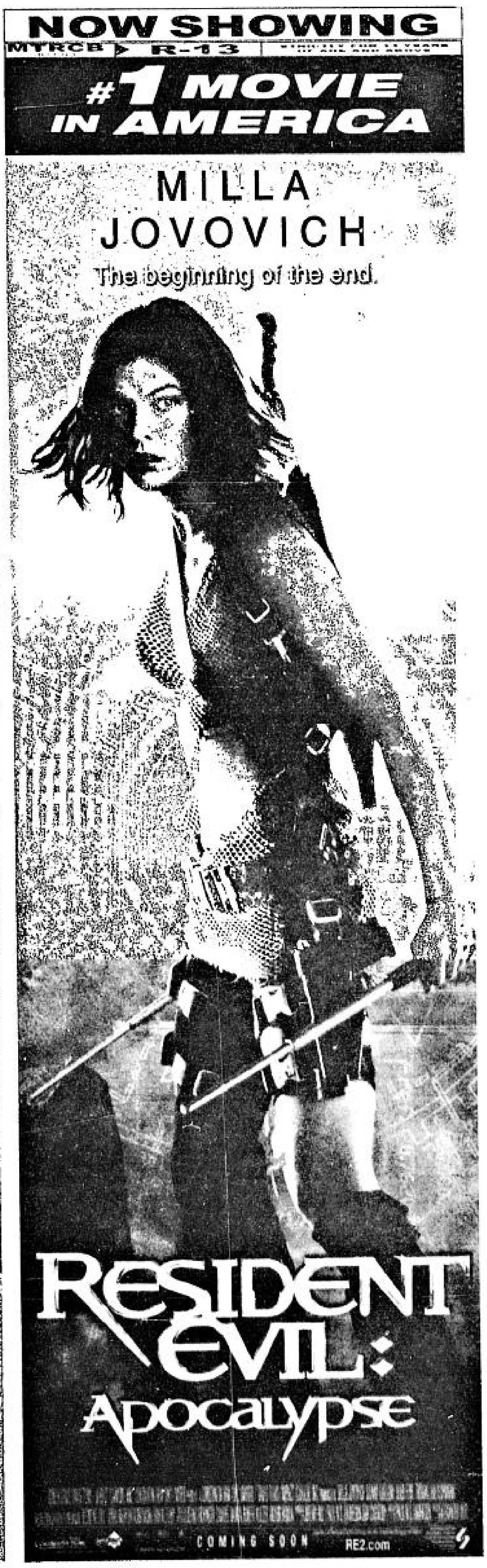
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SECRET WINDOW R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,10:00	RAISING HELEN GP 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30	FAHRENHEIT 9/11 PG13 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:05
RESIDENT EVIL 2 R13 12:35,2:55,5:15,7:35,10:10	FENG SHUI PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15,7:35,9:55	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

MATINEE P81, MON. TO FRI., SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM., FREE SEATING.







Let us now thank and honor Ryan Cayabyab

(Conclusion)

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we worked on the original Filipino musical "Katy!" with Ryan Cayabyab in the late '80s, our already considerable admiration for his composing and arranging talent increased even more.

We were particularly impressed with the range of musical styles the Ryan employed in composing the show's many songs. The story encompassed 60 years of **Katy de la Cruz**'s performing life, so she went through various musical periods, which the gifted composer brilliantly vivified in his music.

The public wholeheartedly agreed, and the musical became a big popular and critical hit. It was hailed as the best cultural event of the year and revived keen interest in the spunky entertainer whose colorful life had inspired us to conceptualize the musical in her honor for Music Theater Philippines.

RYAN C. Truly world-class

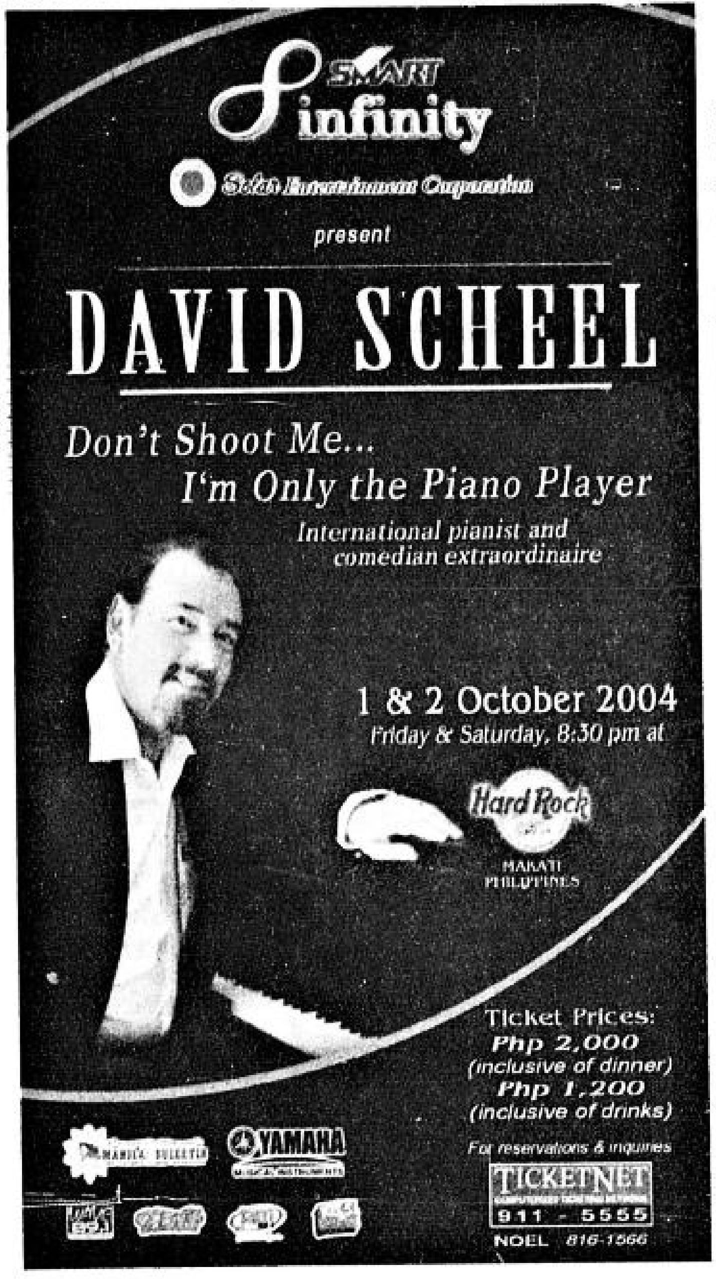
After that smash hit, Ryan went on to other musical successes.

We next worked together when we wrote and directed "Magnificat," a musical on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as seen within the context of the salvific mission of her son Jesus Christ.

We had tapped another talented composer to do the music for the sung-through musical, but he had become a Born Again Christian in midstream, and withdrew from the project.

We were stumped for a replacement, since the show's material was very demanding—until we met an old friend, **Basil Valdez**, and he asked us what our favorite

LET/A27



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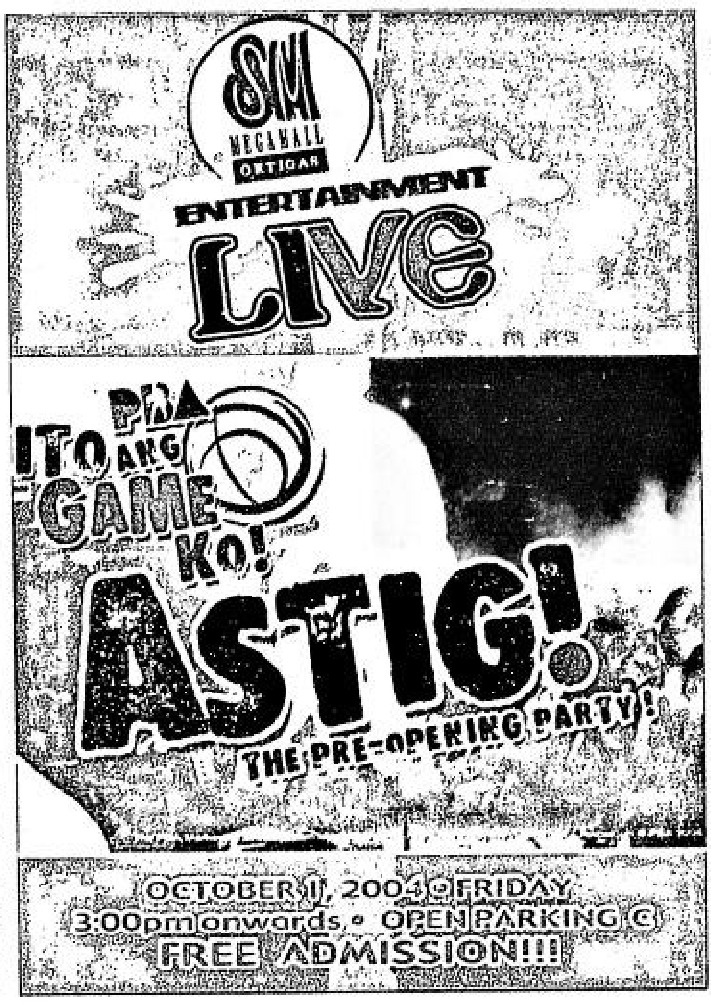

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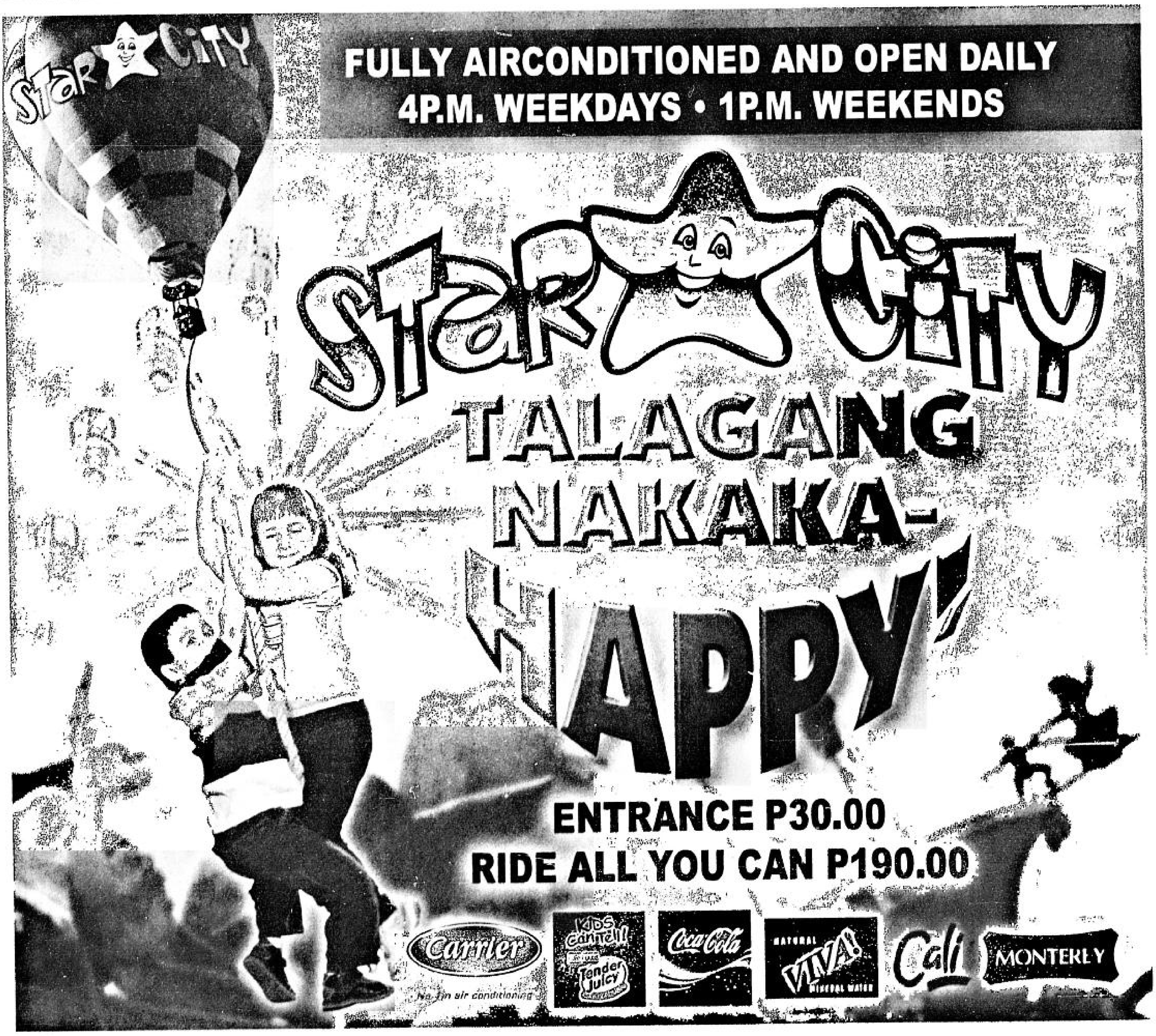

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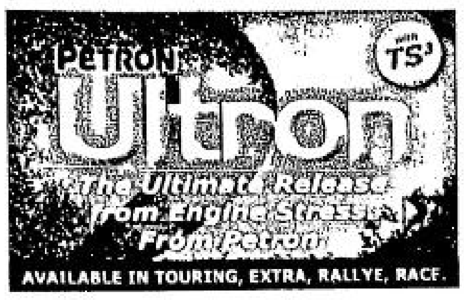
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HSBC sees ₱57-to-$1 by year's end

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Doris C. Dumlao

HONGKONG and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. (HSBC) expects the peso to tumble to 57 to the dollar by year's end and to 58.50 by next year as economic growth loses steam, prices of basic commodities and services climb, and the budget deficit continues to widen despite the best efforts of the Arroyo administration.

In its latest economic report on Asia dated Sept. 24, 2004, HSBC said: "The combination of weaker growth prospects, rising inflationary pressures and likelihood that the budget deficit will not be reined in does not bode well for the peso." The peso touched a record low of 56.45 last Monday.

HSBC said that while the Philippine economy "has been on a roll for some time, we doubt the economy will maintain its current momentum into next year." It expects economic growth as measured by GDP or gross domestic product (the sum of all goods and services produced in the country) to slow down to 4 percent next year from 4.9 percent to 5.5 percent this year.

But Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri was quick to comment: "They are entitled to their own projections." Neri is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also warned currency speculators as the local currency again tried to break past the record low of 56.45 to the dollar.

Saying that the peso was "undervalued" at current levels, BSP Officer-in-Charge Armando Suratos said the institution would "continue to closely monitor activities in the foreign exchange market for violators of the BSP's foreign exchange rules and regulations and make sure that violators are penalized."

The peso yesterday opened at the all-time high of 56.45 but gained some ground against the US dollar later during the day. It closed at 56.38 or slightly stronger than Monday's 56.45 to the dollar on volume of $155 million.

HSBC said the positive factors--a turnaround in exports, bumper harvests, election-related spending, low interest rates and a steady flow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)—that fueled this year's growth would be notably absent next year.

Fears of a slowdown in the China and US economies could have a big impact on the Philippines, which relies on these markets for exports and foreign remittances. "Export growth is already decelerating (up 3.2 percent in July versus 8.3 percent in June) and one of our favorite gauges of future Philippines and Asian exports—the G7 leading economic indicators series—suggests this slowdown will become entrenched in the coming months," HSBC said.

A "drop-off in agriculture" was imminent, according to HSBC, especially in view of the "return of the El Niño weather phenomenon and its attendant drought-like conditions."

As weaker farm incomes and employment curb consumer' spending, HSBC said this could "fan smoldering inflationary pressures." HSBC noted that inflation has been surging not only because of rising fuel prices (that account for 10 percent of the inflation basket) but also of food products (which account for half of the inflation basket). "It seems a forgone conclusion that average inflation will breach the government's target of 4 to 5 percent for the year," HSBC said.

HSBC said another factor that has added pressure on the peso was rising US interest rates. "We believe that the central bank needs to begin tightening mone-

HSBC/B2

Smart subscribers surpass 17M mark

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUBSCRIBERS of Smart Communications Inc. have now exceeded 17 million, up from 16.1 million at the end of the first half, according to company officials.

The wireless giant added more than a million customers since the end of June in line with its modest target of hitting the 18-million mark this year.

Net additions during the current quarter may have slowed compared to the 1.7 million subscribers added to its list in the second quarter. Still, a company official said the third-quarter growth would be at par, if not better, than the previous quarters.

Smart had also enlisted 23,000 customers from its mobile service called 1528 launched in Hong Kong last month.

The cash-rich subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. tied up with CSL Ltd. of Hong Kong for the venture that would allow Filipinos in the Crown Colony to text their relatives and friends in the Philippines at a much cheaper rate.

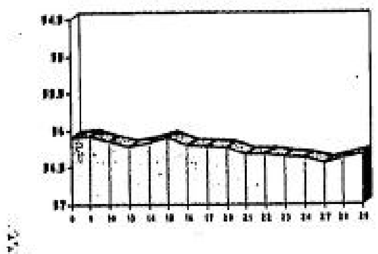
The latest Smart innovation is part of a plan to tap the more than 8 million Filipinos working

SMART/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.315 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 29, 2004

¥ 111.13 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 29, 2004

GOLD: $407.60-408.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 27, 2004

CURRENCIES

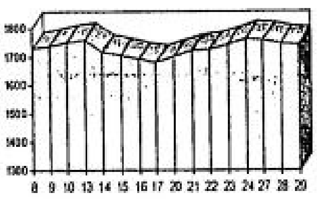
September 29, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.811293	1.000000	56.4100
Japan	Yen	0.007284	0.008978	0.5064
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470956	1.813100	102.2770
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104026	0.128222	7.2330
Switzerland	Franc	0.644190	0.794029	44.7912
Canada	Dollar	0.638210	0.786658	44.3754
Singapore	Dollar	0.478300	0.589553	33.2567
Australia	Dollar	0.581030	0.716178	40.3996
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.152086	2.652661	149.6366
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216345	0.266667	15.0427
Brunei	Dollar	0.476894	0.587820	33.1589
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019498	0.024033	1.3557
UAE	Dirham	0.220892	0.272272	15.3589
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.232600	69.5310
Argentina	Peso	0.271426	0.334560	18.8725
Brazil	Real	0.283471	0.349406	19.7100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134402	0.165664	9.3451
India	Rupee	0.017637	0.021739	1.2263
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213504	0.263165	14.8451
Mexico	New Peso	0.071004	0.087520	4.9370
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541765	0.667780	37.6695
Norway	Kroner	0.119870	0.147752	8.3347
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013709	0.016898	0.9532
South Africa	Rand	0.126808	0.156304	8.8171
Korea	Won	0.000703	0.000867	0.0489
Sweden	Kroner	0.110346	0.136012	7.6724
Syria	Pound	0.030261	0.037300	2.1041
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023827	0.029369	1.6567
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000423	0.000522	0.0294

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.23% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.23 percent lower yesterday with investors worried over the impact of high oil prices but gains in select blue chips limited the market's slide, dealers said.

Selling pressure eased, with the peso regaining strength even though oil prices continued to stay just under the key level of $50 a barrel in Asian trade, they said.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

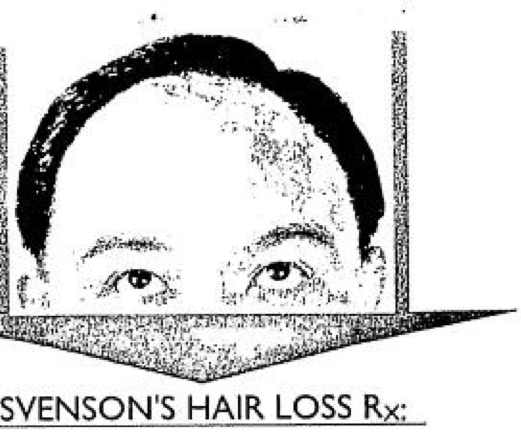
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 3.99 points to 1,742.09, having traded between 1,737.03 and 1,751.54.

Volume was 1.14 billion shares worth P802 million after 617 million shares worth P756 million on Tuesday.

Losers led gainers 42 to 28, with 46 stocks unchanged.

"Investors are jittery about the economic impact of high oil prices in the coming months," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

AFP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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF YOU can smell the stench of the Smokey Mountain issue, perhaps you are aware that I recently wrote a number (two) of columns on it.

Why not? The issue exploded because of that fantastically noble project to turn a world-renowned metropolitan garbage dump into a paradise, at no cost whatsoever to the government, not even a cross-eyed ramshackle centavo, thank you so very much.

The high profile issue even caught the attention of the Senate, which devoted a total of ONE and ONLY ONE hearing day for it.

To think, the senators wanted to get to the bottom of a big-time project which, contrary to the original plan, actually used billions of pesos of government funds—secretly.

That's why the Senate did not hesitate to use up a total of ONE hearing.

The Senate blue ribbon committee even summoned Kuya Eddie—without the unlit cigar, of course. He is no longer the President. Apparently!

* * *

AFTER a grand total of ONE hearing, from out of the blue, one brave senator declared—in full media coverage at that—that Kuya Eddie was a living saint.

Este, no. That's not what the senator said!

He only cleared Kuya Eddie of any wrongdoing in the Smokey Mountain project. Hmm.

Do I take it then, Mr. Senator, that if Kuya Eddie did not sin in the project, somebody else did? But who was it?

By the way, media forgot to report one major point in the senator's statement, which just happened to get to the many media outfits in a jiffy. Efficient PR? Bet on it!

He actually said that the original project proponent, R-II Builders, which won in biddings for the project twice, still must answer some of the issues.

* * *

OUR real interest, nevertheless, must shift to the views of an old (time) senator, known to most people simply as J-P-E, who was the closest buddy of Kuya Eddie in Edsa I.

In the ONE and ONLY Senate hearing, JPE asked Kuya Eddie by what authority he, as President of the Republic, approved the Smokey Mountain reclamation project.

It seems that, based on JPE's flamethrower of a discourse, even the most powerful person in the land, the President of the Republic, actually has no power to grant anybody any authority to reclaim any land in any body of water in any part of this country—not even in a creek or in a bathtub.

The senator said that, under the present democratic system, the authority rests solely on Congress.

Kuya Eddie simply said, "amen."

So why did the administration of Kuya Eddie, without congressional approval, authorize R-II to reclaim more than a hundred hectares of land in Manila Bay? Aha, so there's the smoking cigar, este, gun?

* * *

IN what turned out to be the quickest turnaround move of the century, Kuya Eddie threw the blame on others.

He said, for instance, that he only used the program which was initiated by Tita Cory, in the first place.

Moreover, Kuya Eddie said that, in approving the project, he relied mainly on the recommendation, and all that shoot, of his subordinates.

They were mainly Justice Antonio Carpio, who was then Kuya Eddie's chief legal adviser, and Senate President Franklin Drilon, who was the justice secretary.

By the way, Carpio now sits in the Supreme Court, which has yet to decide on the very same case involving the Smokey Mountain project.

Of course, after Kuya Eddie's revelation of Carpio's role in the project, the good justice may again decide to inhibit himself from the Smokey Mountain case.

Carpio inhibited himself from another garbage case, the one involving Australian firm Jancom's incinerator contract.

Carpio used to be the lawyer of Jancom.

That's why Carpio inhibited himself from the Jancom case. Maybe that's why Jancom won.

* * *

ANYWAY, after Kuya Eddie identified Tita Cory and his subordinates as the culprits, JPE turned soft on him.

"I am not blaming you," he told Kuya Eddie. "Probably it was an oversight of your people."

Wow! That's a Senate hearing, mind you, in which one of the country's top legal minds doesn't mind guessing—on record, at that—about a multibillion-peso scandal.

Or maybe it was a sarcastic comment! After all, the issue only involves a mountain of government funds.

And that probably got the goat of another soldier, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who insisted that the question was still, well, was the project legal or not?

* * *

EVERYBODY knows that the question is up to the Supreme Court to answer.

But take note that, the day after the hearing, Drilon issued a statement.

He said that as justice secretary at that time, he did not uphold the legality of the joint venture agreement between the government and R-II.

What were referred to him for review, the Senate President said, were just the procedural matters. Hmm.

So who did the legal review of this scandalous project?

No, don't tell me, I don't think it was the chief presidential legal adviser at that time! No, you cannot just put the blame on Supreme Court Justice Carpio all the time!

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Smart . . .

From page B1

abroad who send close to $8 billion to their families each year.

Smart Padala handled about 15,000 transactions worth P120 million since it was launched last Aug. 1, according to the company.

Smart said it was targeting to hook up between 30,000 and 35,000 Filipinos overseas to its 1528 program this year.

The PLDT group said it was looking to offer 1528 in other Asian countries as well as Europe. Next target is Singapore and Italy, according to officials, where there are a critical mass of Filipinos.

First Pacific managing director and PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said his group was looking at three ways to expand the telecom business in the region. PLDT is 24-percent owned by First Pacific.

"One is to invest in a telecom company by putting in equity. Another strategy is to do it like what we did in Hong Kong where we tied up with another carrier to bring wireless services of a subsidiary. Another option is just to focus on retail by selling prepaid cards," Pangilinan said in a recent talk with reporters in Hong Kong.

Pangilinan said the 8 million Filipinos working overseas would be a big market for the integrated services of the PLDT group's fixed-line and international gateway, wireless and data operations.

"Hopefully, we can eventually capture the majority of the business from the 8 million Filipinos overseas. We started with Hong Kong and we would be bringing the same products to other areas where there are many Filipinos," he said.

"We have given a mandate to negotiate with carriers of other countries for a similar arrangement as in Hong Kong. The first thing to do is to find out if the regulation permits it," he added.

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ESPAÑA 2004
October 26 to 28
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EXPORTA
The Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (ICEX) is organizing "España Exporta", a fair exclusively for Spanish enterprises from sectors such as food and beverage, engineering and consulting, machinery and equipment, and consumer goods in Manila on October 26 to 28, 2004 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.
The Spanish Commercial Office has been tasked to arrange business matching sessions together with interested distributors, agents and importers of the different showcased products and services.
A. FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES
Compañía Envasadora Loreto, S.A. : Olives and pickles
Delispain/ Gallaecia Premium : Gourmet products
Interpulit, S.L. : Gourmet products
Grupo Garvey : Brandies, wines & confectionery
Jose Estevez, S.A. : Brandies
El Paladeo : Gourmet Products
B. CONSUMER PRODUCTS
Perfumeria Gal, S.A. : Toiletries
Avizor Internacional : Contact Lens Care Products
Laboratorios Indermo, S.L. : Cosmetics
C. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT
Instalaciones y Montajes Dávila, S.L. : Construction Lifts
Resa Andamios Quality, S.A. : Construction Scaffoldings
Zapata Technologies Division : Bottling equipment
Gym Internacional, S.A. : Bottling systems
Intex : Telecom components
D. ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING
Management and Engineering Spanish Consortium
Tecniberia (Madrid)
E. INSTITUTIONAL
IMADE
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28 October 2004: 11 AM - 6 PM
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 29, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	20,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	870,900
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	4,150
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42	42	42	2,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	28	95,800
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	15,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	49,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	21	20.75	20.75	7,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	23.75	24	138,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2370	2385	2370	2385	680
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	5,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	119	119	115	115	1,520
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1625	1625	1625	1625	420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	44,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.84	0.87	36,400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1065	1080	1065	1080	133,550
Ipeople Inc.	1.64	1.72	1.64	1.72	295,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	3,177,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1400	1405	1390	1390	122,730
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	890,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	46,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	38,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	24	142,300
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	1,484,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	4,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	40,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5	5	5	5	97,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	3,000,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,119,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.55	2.55	4,163,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	16,350,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	113,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	25,400
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.76	0.72	0.73	530,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	45,300
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71.5	71.5	192,700
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	94,100
Universal Robina Corp.	8.4	9	8.4	9	150,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	340,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	20,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	9,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	7,668,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	880,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.3	1.34	181,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	200
Boulevard Holdings, Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	600,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	2,240,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	450,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,530,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.1	4,237,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	26	26	188,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	110,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	9,400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.96	95,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
Medco Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	2,034,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.56	37,210,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	140,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.155	3,920,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	91,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	150,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.74	302,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	600,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.68	2,570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.42	350,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.25	241,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	41,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	795,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.4	4,690,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	520,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	12,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	7,025,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2	2	2	2	2,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	2,020,000
City & Land Developers	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	71,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.98	216,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	315,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	26,278,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3.1	2.95	3	110,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	2,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	91,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	57,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	418,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	800,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	290,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	9,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	246,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	190,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	29,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	30,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	3,300,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,221,970	52,069,590.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	225,355,880	551,260,430.00
PRO	54,732,000	186,078,890.00
Mining	571,400,000	6,360,250.00
OIL	288,320,000	1,721,800.00
SME	342,000	386,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,141,371,850	797,877,160.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	491.72	DOWN 3.08
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,776.52	UP 1.02
PRO	593.00	DOWN 6.69
Mining	1,835.63	UP 4.87
OIL	1.61	DOWN 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,083.13	DOWN 4.65
Composite	1,742.09	DOWN 3.99

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28, NO. OF DECLINES: 42, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116, NO. OF TRADES: 2,229

DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of **Nextstage Inc.'s** 400,000 common shares with a par value of P1 each to cover the conversion into equity of P225.9 million advances from Orlando Vea, David Fernando and Rafael Morales was set for Friday, Oct. 1.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Export and Industry Bank** reorganized its different committees. It also created the budget performance and review committee. One of its subsidiaries, the Urbancorp Insurance Brokers Inc. was reactivated.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank announced the appointment of vice chair Arthur Ty as member of the trust committee, to replace Alfredo Barretto who resigned last July 27.

* * *

SECURITY Bank Corp. declared a cash dividend of 30 centavos per share. Anastasia Dy was appointed executive director of the bank.

* * *

A. SORIANO Corp.'s 758,000 shares were bought by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. disclosed the purchase by its chair and chief executive officer, James Go, of 7.05 million common shares of the company last Sept. 22.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

HSBC sees . . .

From page B1

tary policy. Inaction, we believe, runs the risk of allowing inflationary expectations to build further, which would require much more aggressive action further down the road. This could prove especially so given the expected continued hiking of rates in the US in the coming months," HSBC said.

With rising interest rates both locally and internationally, HSBC said it would be tougher for the Arroyo administration to keep the budget deficit within its target. "While higher rates won't necessarily raise interest payments by that much—most government debt is fixed rate—they are likely to hurt growth and in turn tax revenues. Higher interest rates will also make it more expensive for the government to take on new debt," HSBC said.

DTI warns public against dealing with 5 suspected 'pyramiding' firms

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday warned the public against dealing with five companies suspected of engaging in pyramiding scheme.

According to the DTI, the following firms have been subject of inquiries related to pyramiding: Cymbionic Inc., Classique Herbs Corp., Entrepreneurs Club International Marketing Corp., Ikingkong Commercial Philippines Inc. and Inter C-D Co.

The DTI's Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) said these companies were no longer in the business addresses they indicated when they registered with the DTI and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. clarified that it was not yet determined whether the firms were indeed engaged in pyramiding.

But Cristobal said the DTI was considering the possible cancellation of the firms' certificates of business name registration since they did not advise the agency of their change of address.

BTRCP assistant director Jaime Olmos said the bureau had been trying to get in touch with the companies but, instead, discovered they were no longer in their registered addresses.

The bureau sent two notices by mail to each of the five firms, but these were returned to the sender.

"The law requires companies to inform us if they move or change location," Olmos said. "This is meant to protect the public against fly-by-night companies."

DTI records showed that Cymbionic was supposed to have offices at Unit 1601 Atlanta Center, No. 31 Annapolis St. Greenhills, San Juan; Classique Herbs at No. 28 Unit 2-B Agustin 1 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City; Entrepreneurs Club at Suite 900, Ayala Life Bldg., 6786 Ayala Avenue, Makati City; Ikingkong Commercial at 9-B Philippine Stock Exchange West Tower, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, and Inter C-D, No. 304, San Guillermo St., Pototan, Muntinlupa City.

In May, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima announced that the DTI had formed a special legal task force to prosecute pyramiding cases, complaints against which had risen anew.

Purisima said that with the task force in place, the DTI could fast-track the review of the complaints against pyramiding and hopefully clamp down on illegal marketing schemes.

The trade chief said operators of such schemes have been preying on unwary consumers, especially overseas Filipino workers.

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1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.250	7.625	7.750
5.0MM - 9,999,999	7.375	7.875	8.000
10 million and up	7.500	8.125	8.125

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WB executive urges RP to initiate 'bold' reforms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank yesterday urged the Philippines to undertake "bold and timely" reforms—such as in fiscal management, financial restructuring, judiciary and infrastructure—to grab a bigger share of investments pouring into the East Asian region.

WB country director Joachim von Amsberg said the Philippines had the potential to be a prime location for investment in Asia, given its highly educated and entrepreneurial people and rich natural resources.

However, he noted that the Philippines was lagging behind other countries in East Asia as it was perceived to be less competitive. He added that a perception of high political and economic risks was reducing the attractiveness of the country as an investment location.

In its World Development Report 2005, which drew on surveys of more than 30,000 firms in 53 developing countries, it was noted that investment as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) was lower in the Philippines than in Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia between 1990 to 2003. This had significantly constrained the country's growth performance.

"The survey results show the need for improvements in transparency, credibility and predictability. Effective public actions to improve regulation, macroeconomic stability, curb corruption, and remove barriers to competition would increase opportunities and incentives for big firms as well as small firms," Von Amsberg said.

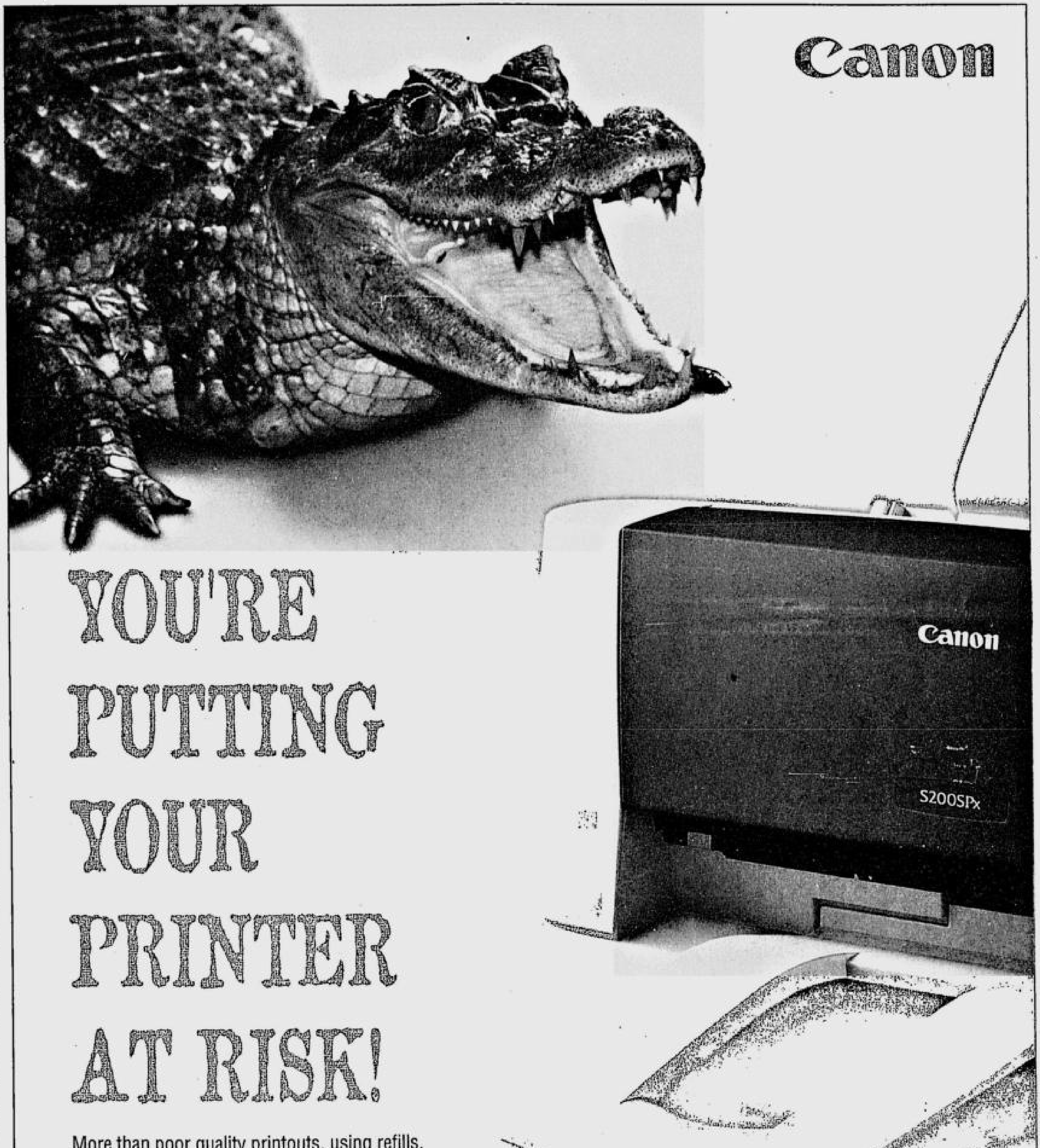
"Bold and timely policy reforms in a few key areas could quickly improve investor sentiment," he said.

In line with the recent report, Von Amsberg cited some of the bank's suggestions to improve the investment climate in the Philippines:

- Implementation of a well-conceived short-and medium-term public finance reform program in order to reduce macroeconomic uncertainty and cost of capital while increase willingness of entrepreneurs and financiers to undertake and finance new investments;
- Implementation of complementary measures to the Special Purpose Asset Vehicles Act to aid the restructuring of the banking and corporate sector, such as granting immunity to regulators from political and legal harassment as well as quick enactment of the Corporate Recovery Bill and the Securitization Bill;
- A systematic effort to lower the costs of doing business, and improve the judicial enforcement and dispute resolution processes, noting the cost of dispute resolution in the Philippines is currently among the highest in the world. Under such environment, firms limit their exposure and lower their cost of exit, resulting in lower levels of technology transfer, supply of capital, and slower integration into production networks, and
- Improvement in private participation in infrastructure as well as complementary and connecting investments at the local level in order to leverage national infrastructure investments.

"Many investors are in a wait-and-watch mood, waiting for reforms and actions to take on vested interests. Sound fiscal management and commitment to reforms will attract investments," the WB executive said.

"Investments will drive growth and employment. Employment and improved public services will raise living standards for people, especially the poor. The key to this virtuous circle is credible and quick implementation of fiscal reforms, in particular," Von Amberg said.



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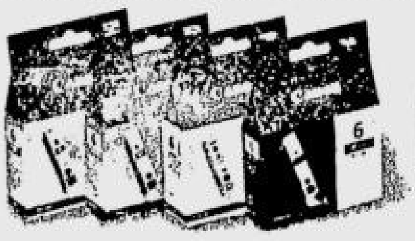

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Olympus MJU300
Finepix a202
Epson Printer
Blackberry 7230
Canon A70 Digicam
20 GB IPod

November Draw
20 GB iPod
HP dj450 Portable Printer
Olympus MJU400
Fujipix f402
Epson Printer
Panasonic X400
Motorola MPX 200
Motorola C380

Consolation
Palm Zire 72
IPAQ
Olympus 400
Finepix f401
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Panasonic X500
Panasonic X700
Blackberry 7230
Canon A70 Digicam
Motorola E398
Motorola C650
Motorola V3
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PROMO MECHANICS:

a) Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.

b) Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.

c) Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries:
   1. Mail to:
      Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
      c/o PDI Building Don Chino Roces Avenue,
      Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
   2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
      Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
      Glorietta mall
      Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
      Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Mall
      Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
      Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
      Alabang Town Center Mall
      Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
      Ayala Center Cebu Mall
      Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
      Netopia (all branches)
      LBC (all branches)

e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.

f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.

g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237.

k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.

l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
   (1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
   (2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
   (3) Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative)

m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.

n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

PROMO EXCLUSIONS:

All employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Harrison Communications and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

Seeking solution to Napocor woes

By Edgardo M. Del Fonso

(Last of a series)

COMMENTARY

AS recently as 1994, Napocor still had a decent capital structure: It had about one peso of long term debt (no lease obligations yet) for every peso of equity. By 2002 the ratio had deteriorated: It had P17 of debt and lease obligations for every P1 of equity. By the end of 2003, Napocor was technically insolvent with negative equity.

The problems spawned by inordinate reliance on debt are now coming to the surface, forcing the government to seek ways to find lasting solutions.

The sale of Napocor's assets will help bring down its debt level, but every year of delay in privatization means opportunity costs running close to $1 billion in terms of forgone interest, a drop in asset values due to wear and tear and continuing losses from the operation of these assets. For a number of structural and procedural reasons, its privatization has suffered delays, although the government is now renewing efforts to speed up the privatization process.

Even if the assets are sold tomorrow for a decent price, there would still remain about P200 billion in unpaid loans. The government can either assume the loan, which is the current thinking, provide equity to Napocor (but the government itself is cash-strapped), or increase tariff through the universal charge (allowed by Epira, but is this politically feasible?).

Lease obligations

That still leaves the question of what to do with lease obligations arising from IPP contracts. For most IPPs, there is a lag between Napocor's payment of lease obligations and their recovery from the tariff, though the payments will be ultimately collected. But for some IPPs, there is no feasible way under Epira for Napocor to recover all these costs.

This leads us to look into the impact of Epira on Napocor's profitability. There are at least two provisions in this piece of legislation that directly affect its losses. One is the mandated reduction of P0.30/kwh for all residential end-users upon its passage. Napocor's already inadequate revenues have been reduced by P3 billion yearly because of this reduction, the basis for which remains unclear except for the fact that it is what the law says.

That's one. The other deals a far more serious blow to Napocor's profitability and finances. Section 32 of Epira states that Napocor may recover from its customers the full cost of IPPs approved by the defunct Energy Regulatory Board as of Dec. 31, 2000. That means the PPC on IPPs not approved as of that cutoff—and there are eight of them—would not qualify for recovery. It is not clear whether this prohibition was intended to chastise those responsible for these IPP contracts, or to shield the consumer from unwarranted costs. But right now Napocor will have to absorb billions of losses on them. Six of these projects are now operational. They happen to have the highest investment cost among Napocor's IPPs because these are mostly large-scale projects (the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas plant) or multipurpose hydroelectric projects (San Roque, Casecnan, Bakun) where the power component (read: Napocor) typically subsidizes the cost of irrigation and municipal water use.

Through the end of 2003 the unrecovered cost of these six IPPs has reached over P50 billion. Every year Napocor stands to lose about P25 billion due to this provision, with no hope of recovery unless Congress repeals this provision.

Largely because of this Epira stipulation, Napocor registered an operating loss in 2003. This is the first time in Napocor's long history that its revenues could not even cover its operating expenses.

Epira, the major cause

It is something of a commentary of the times that in all the noise generated in the press about the reasons for Napocor's losses, none has pointed to Epira itself as a major cause for Napocor's loss and funding deficit. Between the prohibition against recovery of costs on six IPPs and the mandated reduction in rates, nearly P30 billion leaks out of Napocor every year. Compared to Epira, the PPA cap is a tempest in a teapot.

Prior to 1993, the Napocor board had the power to fix its tariff rates. With the enactment of the Electric Power Crisis Act in 1993, the ERB took over the function of fixing Napocor's rates. One can trace Napocor's tariff travails to that event.

A sampling of rate rulings shows that the regulator shaves from 20 percent to as much as 59 percent from Napocor's rate applications. Until the end of 2003, Mindanao's rates reached only P1.03 per kwh. That is less than one-third the cost of fuel for oil-fired plants, which Napocor runs about 40 percent of the time.

Every time Napocor runs an oil-fired plant anywhere in the country, it loses at least P1 per kwh. Geothermal plants can usually cover their fuel costs, but not the full cost of generation; in Mindanao Napocor's steam cost is greater than the allowed tariff. In 2003 coal plants had adequate margins to cover fuel and other costs, but the doubling of coal prices over the past year means the profitability of coal plants will decline somewhat.

The inadequate generation tariff has implications on the government's privatization program as well. Under the current structure, none of the oil-fired plants stands a chance of making money. The geothermal plants need to have steam prices on some contracts renegotiated because most of the value is created at the steam field. This does not augur well for the privatization program, and if Napocor has a chance of selling its portfolio of generating assets for a decent price, further adjustments in the rate will have to be done.

One hopeful sign is that the ERC commissioners are now looking at rate petitions from a more balanced perspective. Instead of being overly protective of the consumer, the ERC has of late been much more open in giving stakeholders an opportunity to fully present their case before making a ruling, without compromising their independence and objectivity.

Expensive lesson

The Asian financial crisis and the recent political upheavals have hurt the industry in at least two ways. A peso in 1996 was worth almost four US cents; now it is worth less than two cents.

The series of upheavals also caused a break in out growth trends. For industries that can adjust quickly to changing economic conditions, this is not such a big problem. But for the power industry, where the planning horizon for a plant can stretch over several years, a plant could end up being surplus to the country's requirements by the time it gets on stream. If one used the 1993 Power Development Plan in deciding to put up a plant, by the time the plant is completed, the hoped for increase in demand would have vanished.

The Napocor experience is an expensive lesson to learn on the hazards and eventual costs of mounting hidden subsidies for the consumer. The culture of entitlement and of "victimhood" that pervaded government policy and public expectations is unworkable in the long run. It may earn us some brownie points for a while, but sooner or later the problems will come home to roost and must be confronted. Government cannot afford giving away free lunch forever. If it wishes to subsidize the consumer for social, political, or other reasons, that subsidy should be explicitly and openly recognized and appropriated in the budget so that everybody will know there is a cost to it, and that the rest of the economy is going to have to pay for it. In any event, Napocor can no longer continue its role as the provider of subsidies when its plants are sold.

Note to legislators

Civil servants, no less than the others, deserve to be treated by Congress with some dignity and courtesy. Election to high office does not give anyone the license to treat witnesses—many of whom are accomplished lawyers, engineers, and professionals—in a boorish, supercilious, and contemptuous manner. It serves no useful purpose—and is a disservice to the country, to their constituents and to themselves—to use these hearings as an occasion to berate a person or a decision without basis or to reach sweeping conclusions even before those involved could have a chance to explain their side.

A sportswriter wrote once that golf is like bicycle shorts. It reveals a lot about people. The same can be said about Senate hearings.

This is a free country so I'll say it: I've seen both Roger Murga and Congress at work. I think Roger did a better job at running Napocor than many of them are at making laws.

(The author is the former president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.)

ABS-CBN taps new markets for drama series

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TELEVISION giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will start selling Philippine drama series next year to Latin America, China, Indochina, Eastern Europe and Africa.

Reena de Guzman Garingan, director for ABS-CBN's international sales, told reporters that the network was also planning to introduce local television drama series specifically to Honduras, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Myanmar, Vietnam, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Russia, Croatia, Bulgaria and China.

The programs sell for roughly about $500 to $2,000 per episode. ABS-CBN's popular drama series run 30 to 180 episodes.

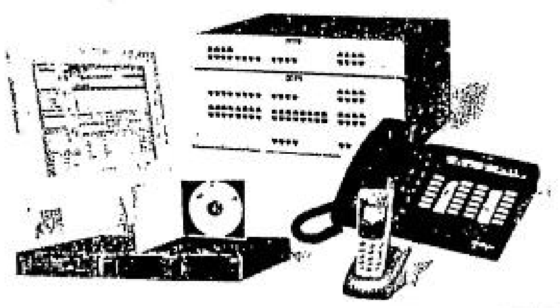
Eyed for this plan are drama series "Sana'y Wala Ng Wakas," "Darating ang Umaga" and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon."

In March 2002, ABS-CBN's telenovela "Mula sa Puso" was aired in Malaysia. It was a hit among Filipino and Malaysian viewers. The series was aired in Filipino and subtitled in Bahasa Melayu.

Local TV networks in Malaysia took a new interest in Philippine TV drama and purchased two more ABS-CBN series—"Pangako Sa 'Yo" and "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay."

Aside from Malaysia, ABS-CBN's international department formed in August 2001, sold Philippine drama series to Indonesia, Cambodia, Brunei in Asia and to Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Mauritius and Seychelles in Africa.

"Pangako Sa 'Yo" is currently airing in Kenya and in Cambodia while "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" and "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako" have started airing in Malaysia. The recently concluded "Sana'y Wala Ng Wakas," which is the postscript to the "Pangako Sa 'Yo" tandem of actors Kristine Hermosa and Jericho Rosales, began to air in Malaysia and Brunei in mid-September.



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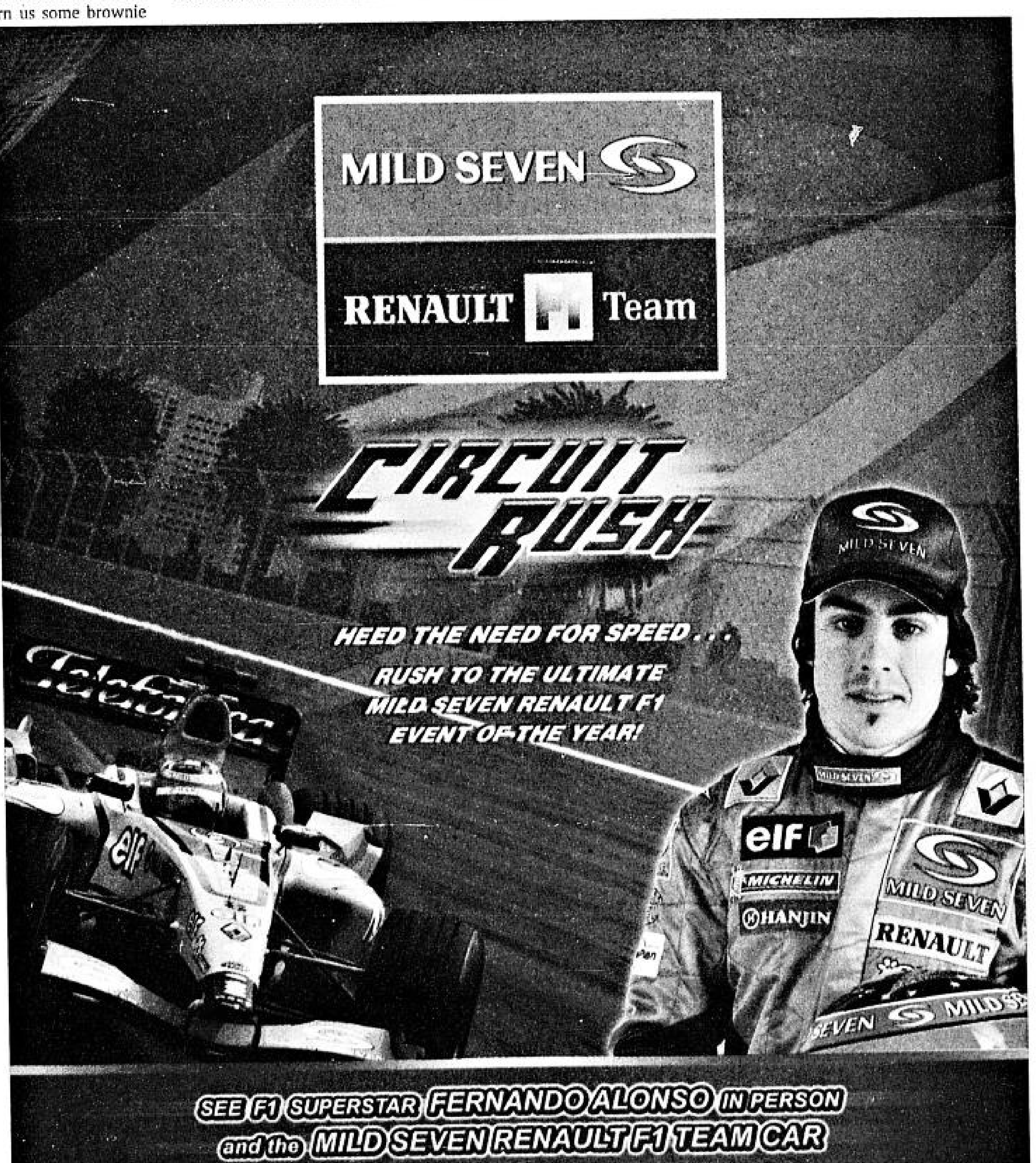
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REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 8, 9 AND 10
FY 2003
In Thousand Pesos

	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									% of Net Income to Total Income
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank* 1	Rank* 2	Total Expenses	Rank* 1	Rank* 2	Net Income	Rank* 1	Rank* 2	
REGION 8		4,500,635	778,728	3,721,363	3,784,260			3,249,863			534,397			14
Biliran		178,755	51,744	127,011	180,236		6	160,547		6	19,689		6	11
Almeria	5	13,195	2,797	10,398	19,663	6	99	17,329	5	96	2,334	5	85	12
Biliran	5	20,072	7,618	12,453	20,654	5	93	16,717	7	105	3,937	2	61	19
Cabucgayan	5	15,660	3,081	12,579	20,933	4	91	17,416	4	95	3,517	3	67	17
Caibiran	5	18,254	3,758	14,496	22,446	2	81	22,270	2	58	176	8	124	1
Culaba	5	10,002	3,160	6,842	17,862	7	109	17,070	6	101	791	7	116	4
Kawayan	5	11,518	3,564	7,954	21,375	3	88	19,941	3	73	1,434	6	108	7
Maripipi	5	11,246	1,954	9,293	15,006	8	121	11,724	8	129	3,282	4	72	22
Naval	4	78,808	25,811	52,997	42,296	1	17	38,078	1	15	4,218	1	53	10
Eastern Samar		543,451	104,968	438,483	610,837		3	542,005		3	68,832		3	11
Arteche	5	29,215	1,791	27,424	41,600	2	19	36,660	2	20	4,940	5	38	12
Balangiga	5	11,123	1,793	9,329	20,824	17	92	22,006	11	59	(1,182)	22	131	(6)
Balangkayan	5	17,717	694	17,023	21,987	12	83	19,600	14	80	2,387	13	84	11
Borongan	2	67,679	17,148	50,531	64,999	1	6	60,887	1	4	4,111	9	54	6
Can-Avid	4	21,376	7,035	14,340	30,404	8	43	24,829	8	49	5,575	4	29	18
Dolores	4	43,783	7,653	36,130	38,726	4	24	32,756	4	24	5,970	2	24	15
Gen. MacArthur	5	21,627	7,116	14,512	20,636	18	94	17,054	19	102	3,582	12	64	17
Giporlos	5	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Guiuan	3	35,340	11,007	24,333	41,582	3	20	32,057	5	25	9,524	1	8	23
Hernani	5	16,830	6,624	10,206	15,337	21	119	15,215	20	113	122	19	125	1
Jipapad	5	13,658	1,774	11,884	21,784	14	85	17,698	16	92	4,086	10	58	19
Lawa-an	5	22,231	2,662	19,569	21,699	15	86	19,883	13	76	1,816	14	95	8
Llorente	4	25,389	4,834	20,555	38,088	5	26	36,650	3	21	1,438	16	107	4
Maslog	5	22,340	1,983	20,357	21,689	16	87	17,297	17	98	4,392	8	60	20
Maydolong	4	31,616	2,287	29,329	31,242	7	39	30,865	6	27	377	18	121	1
Mercedes	6	14,285	2,488	11,797	14,766	22	123	14,752	21	117	13	21	129	0
Oras	4	17,180	1,227	15,953	31,761	6	36	26,874	7	35	4,887	6	39	15
Quinapondan	5	18,999	2,174	16,825	18,755	19	105	17,199	18	99	1,555	15	101	8
Salcedo	5	12,795	843	11,952	23,575	10	72	23,050	9	55	524	17	120	2
San Julian	5	35,344	2,090	33,254	23,489	11	73	17,749	15	90	5,740	3	25	24
San Policarpio	5	24,443	1,757	22,686	18,390	20	106	14,379	22	119	4,011	11	59	22
Sulat	5	26,822	14,495	12,327	21,893	13	84	21,776	12	61	117	20	126	1
Taft	4	13,660	5,492	8,167	27,611	9	53	22,768	10	56	4,844	7	40	18
Leyte		2,099,016	342,150	1,756,866	1,350,602		1	1,130,546		1	220,056		1	16
Abuyog	2	112,206	15,054	97,152	67,918	3	5	57,135	2	5	10,783	4	5	16
Alang-Alang	4	44,538	10,593	33,944	38,854	11	23	34,249	11	22	4,606	20	46	12
Albuera	3	68,291	4,047	64,244	40,831	10	21	33,811	12	23	7,020	10	17	17
Babatngon	4	27,461	6,924	20,537	25,649	27	60	23,216	26	54	2,434	29	82	9
Barugo	4	56,499	9,691	46,808	28,778	23	49	25,798	20	43	2,980	28	75	10
Bato	4	51,538	35,970	15,568	35,137	14	30	25,976	18	40	9,161	6	9	26
Baybay	1	218,906	15,644	203,263	84,499	2	2	67,618	1	3	16,882	2	2	20
Burauen	2	61,438	11,793	49,644	48,560	6	10	37,654	9	17	10,906	3	4	22
Calubian	4	55,546	6,946	48,600	27,622	24	52	21,952	27	60	5,670	13	27	21
Capoocan	4	39,703	5,054	34,649	30,796	19	41	26,132	17	38	4,664	19	44	15
Carigara	3	59,104	11,202	47,902	42,978	9	16	38,296	7	14	4,681	18	43	11
Dagami	4	35,424	10,330	25,093	31,318	18	38	27,230	15	34	4,088	23	57	13
Dulag	4	53,708	8,431	45,277	36,745	13	27	28,425	14	31	8,320	8	14	23
Hilongos	3	74,238	6,817	67,422	48,679	5	9	38,628	6	13	10,052	5	6	21
Hindang	5	28,966	6,153	22,813	22,563	32	80	18,462	31	86	4,101	22	56	18
Inopacan	5	24,703	4,770	19,933	24,792	28	63	24,032	23	50	760	38	117	3
Isabel	1	158,161	16,140	142,021	61,447	4	7	55,340	3	6	6,107	11	23	10
Jaro	4	33,022	6,887	26,136	38,490	12	25	37,025	10	18	1,465	35	104	4
Javier	4	37,691	4,945	32,746	26,916	26	56	23,675	25	52	3,241	27	73	12
Julita	5	25,015	5,281	19,734	17,785	37	112	16,413	37	107	1,372	37	109	8
Kananga	2	145,980	36,278	109,702	84,650	1	1	53,755	4	7	30,894	1	1	36
La Paz	5	30,216	10,118	20,098	24,649	29	65	19,862	30	77	4,787	17	42	19
Leyte	4	62,626	9,547	53,079	34,727	16	32	26,451	16	36	8,276	9	15	24
Mc Arthur	5	28,226	9,574	18,652	20,567	33	95	17,038	35	103	3,529	25	66	17
Mahaplag	4	40,766	3,885	36,881	29,594	21	47	23,890	24	51	5,704	12	26	19
Matag-ob	5	29,473	1,355	28,118	22,704	31	79	17,711	34	91	4,994	16	37	22
Matalom	4	38,309	5,803	32,407	31,460	17	37	25,918	19	41	5,542	14	30	18
Mayorga	5	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Merida	4	17,657	2,521	16,137	27,561	26	54	25,413	21	45	2,148	32	88	8
Palo	3	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Palompon	3	56,263	7,539	48,724	47,260	7	11	45,603	5	8	1,657	34	99	4
Pastrana	5	25,400	4,266	21,134	20,446	34	96	18,246	32	87	2,201	31	86	11
San Isidro	4	69,078	5,398	63,680	28,844	22	48	25,356	22	46	3,488	28	68	12
San Miguel	5	19,201	3,744	15,457	23,073	30	76	20,651	29	70	2,422	30	83	10
Sta. Fe	5	16,341	5,125	11,216	19,227	35	101	17,769	33	89	1,457	36	106	8
Tabango	4	83,183	6,683	76,500	30,126	20	45	21,049	28	67	9,076	7	11	30
Tabon-Tabon	5	17,863	4,013	13,850	14,758	38	124	14,945	38	115	(187)	39	130	(1)
Tanauan	3	63,950	7,472	56,478	43,089	8	15	38,022	8	16	5,066	15	35	12
Tolosa	5	18,055	5,771	12,284	18,345	36	107	16,630	36	106	1,715	33	97	9
Tunga	6	20,431	1,642	18,789	14,161	39	126	9,729	39	131	4,432	21	48	31
Villaba	4	49,839	8,647	41,193	35,003	15	31	31,441	13	26	3,562	24	65	10
Northern Samar		553,125	76,173	476,408	535,589		4	464,188		4	71,402		4	13
Allen	5	25,100	2,655	22,445	22,817	12	78	18,709	12	85	4,108	8	55	18
Biri	5	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Bobon	5	9,392	1,175	8,217	23,802	11	71	21,087	9	66	2,715	11	77	11
Capul	5	9,331	1,669	7,662	16,845	16	114	15,159	17	114	1,686	14	98	10
Catarman	2	90,843	12,358	78,485	72,347	1	4	70,888	1	1	1,460	16	105	2
Catubig	4	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Gamay	UN	16,665	1,656	15,008	24,724	9	64	21,289	8	63	3,435	10	70	14
Laoang	3	71,816	13,516	58,299	47,208	2	12	40,254	2	11	6,954	4	19	15
Lapinig	5	4,122	1,721	2,400	16,776	17	115	15,867	15	109	909	18	114	5
Las Navas	4	26,855	3,347	23,507	34,313	5	33	25,153	7	47	9,160	1	10	27
Lavezares	5	19,412	3,989	15,423	25,993	8	69	20,937	10	69	5,055	6	36	19
Lope De Vega	5	-	-	-	-			-			-			
Mapanas	5	6,103	1,800	4,303	21,276	13	89	17,606	13	93	3,670	9	63	17
Mondragon	4	36,357	4,567	31,790	35,365	3	28	29,899	3	29	5,466	5	31	15
Palapag	4	48,178	6,456	41,178	35,258	4	29	28,288	4	32	6,970	3	18	20
Pambujan	4	30,745	4,303	26,442	29,897	7	46	25,576	6	44	4,321	7	52	14
Rosario	5	10,176	1,368	8,808	7,785	20	132	6,845	20	132	941	17	113	12
San Antonio	6	10,015	889	9,126	14,887	18	122	14,870	18	116	17	20	128	0
San Isidro	4	33,310	2,031	31,279	30,631	6	42	28,190	5	33	2,441	12	81	8
San Jose	5	16,863	1,254	15,609	17,843	15	110	16,347	14	108	1,496	15	103	8
San Roque	5	22,406	6,674	15,732	-			-			-			
San Vicente	6	9,314	1,706	7,609	12,561	19	130	12,337	19	127	224	19	123	2
Silvino Lobos	5	39,581	2,031	37,550	24,060	10	68	15,825	16	110	8,235	2	16	34
Victoria	5	16,541	1,006	15,534	21,200	14	90	19,061	11	82	2,139	13	89	10
Samar		668,456	128,520	539,936	705,376		2	605,850		2	99,526		2	14
Almagro	5	12,528	4,531	7,996	19,219	17	102	17,115	19	100	2,104	16	90	11
Basey	3	78,007	21,468	56,539	52,003	2	8	43,477	3	10	8,526	3	12	16
Calbiga	4	24,289	3,611	20,678	30,333	8	44	25,070	8	48	5,264	8	32	17
Catbalogan	1	62,112	16,393	45,719	82,202	1	3	68,172	1	2	14,030	1	3	17
Daram	4	45,641	6,583	39,058	32,081	7	35	29,069	6	30	3,012	13	74	9
Gandara	3	56,361	11,209	45,152	45,412	3	13	44,774	2	9	638	22	118	1
Hinabangan	4	38,538	6,775	31,764	32,711	6	34	26,088	7	39	6,623	5	20	20
Jiabong	5	21,806	3,391	18,415	19,211	18	103	15,739	20	111	3,472	12	89	18
Marabut	5	10,885	1,834	9,051	23,952	13	69	21,289	11	64	2,662	15	79	11
Matuguinao	5	18,368	7,936	10,433	18,320	20	108	13,869	22	122	4,451	10	47	24
Motiong	5	15,042	1,063	13,979	22,837	16	77	21,590	10	62	1,246	20	110	5
Pagsanhan	5	9,639	2,275	7,364	13,481	24	128	13,112	24	124	369	23	122	3
Paranas	3	63,822	8,433	55,389	45,225	4	14	36,735	4	19	8,491	4	13	19
Pinabacdao	5	22,332	4,954	17,378	23,190	15	75	20,517	12	71	2,673	14	78	12
San Jorge	5	10,331	2,449	7,882	25,548	11	61	23,459	9	53	2,089	17	91	8
San Jose De Buan	5	18,973	1,553	17,420	26,369	10	58	19,934	14	74	6,436	7	22	24
San Sebastian	5	8,979	2,065	6,914	14,068	23	127	13,973	21	121	95	24	127	1
Sta. Margarita	4	29,949	2,074	27,875	26,497	9	57	19,931	15	75	6,566	6	21	25
Sta. Rita	4	44,765	2,766	41,999	40,028	5	22	30,214	5	28	9,814	2	7	25
Sto. Niño	5	9,735	4,964	4,771	17,124	21	113	18,902	17	84	(1,779)	25	132	(10)
Tagapul-an	5	10,808	1,928	8,880	14,711	22	125	13,195	23	123	1,515	19	102	10
Talalora	5	8,856	1,352	7,504	13,199	25	129	12,237	25	128	962	21	112	7
Tarangnan	5	17,967	2,333	15,634	23,824	14	70	19,825	16	78	3,998	11	60	17
Villareal	4	17,129	4,677	12,452	24,911	12	62	20,262	13	72	4,650	9	45	19
Zumarraga	5	11,594	1,903	9,691	18,919	19	104	17,300	18	97	1,619	18	100	9
Southern Leyte		457,832	75,174	382,658	401,619		5	346,728		5	54,891		5	14
Anahawan	5	14,131	889	13,242	15,582	16	118	14,128	14	118	1,153	16	111	7
Bontoc	4	13,625	3,827	9,798	28,343	3	50	26,316	2	37	2,026	14	94	7
Hinunangan	4	54,402	2,996	51,406	31,079	2	40	25,840	3	42	5,239	2	33	17
Hinundayan	5	19,276	4,322	14,954	20,028	11	98	19,174	8	81	854	17	115	4
Libagon	5	21,324	6,828	14,496	20,353	10	97	17,590	11	94	2,763	9	76	14
Liloan	4	36,594	3,573	33,022	24,344	6	66	21,033	6	68	3,311	8	71	14
Limasawa	6	15,524	2,650	12,874	11,820	18	131	9,758	18	130	2,062	13	93	17
Macrohon	5	28,808	12,299	16,509	26,917	5	55	21,263	5	65	5,653	1	28	21
Malitbog	4	35,244	2,275	32,969	23,373	8	74	19,005	9	83	4,368	6	51	19
Padre Burgos	5	18,259	1,357	16,902	15,149	17	120	12,979	16	125	2,171	11	87	14
Pintuyan	5	11,060	5,644	5,416	15,835	15	117	15,273	13	112	562	18	119	4
San Francisco	5	36,347	1,956	34,390	17,791	13	111	12,954	17	126	4,838	4	41	27
San Juan	5	23,304	3,889	19,415	22,099	9	82	18,219	10	88	3,880	7	62	18
San Ricardo	5	10,799	1,268	9,531	15,893	14	116	14,161	15	120	1,731	15	96	11
Silago	5	29,791	3,438	26,352	24,182	7	67	19,782	7	79	4,400	5	49	18
St. Bernard	4	38,799	1,523	37,275	27,666	4	51	22,458	4	57	5,208	3	34	19
Sogod	4	39,216	14,500	24,716	41,835	1	18	39,760	1	12	2,075	12	92	5
Tomas Oppus	5	11,328	1,937	9,391	19,330	12	100	16,733	12	104	2,597	10	80	13
REGION 9		3,069,657	738,623	2,331,034	2,263,222			2,018,936			244,287			11
Zamboanga Del Norte		1,117,096	268,328	848,768	853,728		1	772,130		1	81,598		2	10
Baleguian	3	48,162	4,902	43,260	31,126	15	39	27,511	15	37	3,616	8	25	12
Godod	4	27,057	9,762	17,295	23,929	20	56	20,352	22	61	3,577	9	27	15
Gutalac	UN	30,783	8,091	22,692	42,989	6	12	40,141	3	8	2,848	13	35	7
Jose Dalman	4	28,973	5,881	23,091	26,864	16	46	24,306	17	46	2,558	14	40	10
Kalawit	4	32,394	2,267	30,127	26,687	17	47	21,785	20	55	4,902	5	16	18
Katipunan	3	34,937	11,015	23,922	39,511	8	20	39,919	4	9	(408)	22	64	(1)
La Libertad	5	22,206	6,145	16,061	11,269	25	67	14,474	25	67	(3,205)	25	67	(28)
Labason	2	43,064	19,021	24,042	36,340	12	25	31,652	13	27	4,687	6	18	13
Leon B. Postigo	3	29,061	11,649	17,412	32,081	14	36	32,698	12	25	(617)	23	65	(2)
Liloy	3	34,956	10,066	24,891	37,269	11	24	36,486	7	15	783	21	61	2
Manuel Roxas	2	52,842	19,515	33,327	39,867	7	19	38,302	5	12	1,565	16	49	4
Manukan	3	50,599	6,800	43,798	37,566	10	23	34,033	10	21	3,533	10	28	9
Mutia	5	17,498	7,128	10,371	18,460	24	65	17,368	24	65	1,092	19	56	6
Piñan	4	53,888	22,194	31,694	23,877	21	57	21,395	21	57	2,482	15	41	10
Polanco	3	38,436	12,953	25,483	37,568	9	22	33,020	11	23	4,549	7	20	12
Rizal	4	21,374	3,888	17,486	20,239	23	64	22,530	19	53	(2,291)	24	66	(11)
Salug	3	46,514	2,595	43,919	33,947	13	29	30,985	14	29	2,962	12	34	9
Sergio Osmeña	2	72,102	12,972	59,130	44,458	5	11	37,769	6	13	6,689	4	8	15
Siayan	2	53,295	16,299	36,996	46,396	3	7	45,529	2	4	867	20	60	2
Sibuco	UN	78,118	7,599	70,518	50,304	2	4	35,774	8	17	14,531	1	1	29
Sindangan	4	102,911	15,686	87,225	73,927	1	1	63,620	1	1	10,307	3	6	14
Siocon	1	90,312	19,079	71,233	45,300	4	9	34,437	9	20	10,863	2	4	24
Sibutad	2	35,093	7,686	27,407	21,388	22	62	20,236	23	62	1,152	18	55	5
Sirawai	3	31,608	7,378	24,230	26,064	19	51	24,509	16	45	1,555	17	50	6
Tampilisan	4	40,916	17,757	23,159	26,301	18	50	23,299	18	52	3,001	11	33	11
Zamboanga Del Sur		1,124,831	234,882	889,949	814,778		2	731,899		2	82,879		1	10
Aurora	3	73,660	25,500	48,161	47,663	3	6	44,277	3	6	3,385	10	29	7
Bayog	4	52,220	11,223	40,997	40,325	5	17	34,620	5	19	5,705	4	13	14
Dimataling	4	39,620	4,359	35,261	27,750	16	43	27,600	10	36	150	26	63	1
Dinas	4	44,618	5,445	39,174	31,359	11	37	26,148	12	39	5,211	5	15	17
Dumalinao	3	49,908	11,641	38,267	30,006	14	41	25,427	14	41	4,580	7	19	15
Dumingag	3	67,034	10,576	56,458	48,326	2	5	46,310	1	3	2,015	15	44	4
Guipos	5	15,661	4,355	11,306	22,734	22	58	21,697	22	56	1,037	22	57	5
Josefina	5	33,654	5,815	27,839	17,324	26	66	16,351	26	66	974	23	58	6
Kumalarang	4	36,333	5,426	30,907	27,832	15	42	25,649	13	40	2,183	14	43	8
Labangan	4	44,952	6,777	38,174	34,958	6	26	32,985	6	24	1,973	16	46	6
Lakewood	4	32,824	6,198	26,626	26,532	18	49	25,375	15	42	1,157	21	54	4
Lapuyan	4	50,572	16,366	34,206	33,982	8	28	32,148	7	26	1,834	18	48	5
Mahayag	3	51,782	13,138	38,644	41,772	4	15	38,437	4	11	3,335	11	31	8
Margosatubig	4	44,563	7,752	36,811	33,741	9	32	28,849	9	35	4,892	6	17	14
Midsalip	4	42,834	4,273	38,561	32,504	10	33	21,939	21	54	10,565	1	5	33
Molave	3	85,997	11,100	74,898	52,733	1	3	45,137	2	5	7,597	2	7	14
Pitogo	5	32,451	2,219	30,232	24,893	21	55	23,555	19	49	1,338	19	52	5
Ramon Magsaysay	4	57,031	11,026	46,006	31,244	12	38	24,989	16	43	6,255	3	9	20
San Miguel	5	27,617	12,520	15,097	25,248	20	54	24,048	18	47	1,200	20	53	5
San Pablo	4	47,657	13,247	34,410	27,507	17	44	24,827	17	44	2,680	13	37	10
Sominot	5	17,738	2,765	14,973	21,887	25	61	21,339	23	58	548	25	62	3
Tabina	5	42,325	13,999	28,325	25,384	19	53	23,486	20	50	1,898	17	47	7
Tambulig	4	35,304	12,637	22,667	30,793	13	40	26,422	11	38	4,371	8	22	14
Tigbao	5	27,952	3,978	23,974	22,138	23	59	18,976	25	63	3,162	12	32	14
Tukuran	4	45,055	8,281	36,774	34,066	7	27	30,170	8	33	3,896	9	24	11
Vincenzo Sagun	5	25,467	4,268	21,200	22,078	24	60	21,142	24	60	936	24	59	4
Zamboanga Sibugay		827,730	235,413	592,317	594,715		3	514,906		3	79,810		3	13
Alicia	4	47,262	13,284	33,979	33,826	10	31	30,234	11	32	3,592	9	26	11
Buug	3	70,778	34,151	36,627	40,936	6	16	34,907	6	18	6,029	4	11	15
Diplahan	4	22,721	6,710	16,012	32,439	11	34	30,450	10	31	1,988	15	45	6
Imelda	4	36,624	6,822	29,802	25,398	15	52	23,929	13	48	1,469	16	51	6
Ipil	2	155,743	47,424	108,319	66,518	1	2	53,154	1	2	13,364	2	3	20
Kabasalan	3	64,624	12,245	52,379	44,574	3	10	30,571	9	30	14,003	1	2	31
Mabuhay	5	40,790	12,882	27,908	27,375	13	45	23,466	14	51	3,909	8	23	14
Malangas	4	46,139	14,680	31,459	33,914	9	30	31,261	8	28	2,653	12	38	8
Naga	4	54,722	10,086	44,637	40,026	7	18	33,902	7	22	6,124	3	10	15
Olutanga	5	40,447	7,662	32,785	26,594	14	48	21,219	15	59	5,375	6	14	20
Payao	4	36,226	7,513	28,713	32,241	12	35	29,962	12	34	2,279	14	42	7
Roseller T. Lim	4	28,383	11,465	16,918	38,752	8	21	35,912	5	16	2,840	11	36	7
Siay	4	53,274	16,829	36,445	42,588	4	13	36,778	4	14	5,810	5	12	14
Talusan	5	29,411	14,554	14,857	20,976	16	63	17,635	16	64	3,340	10	30	16
Titay	4	52,685	6,186	46,499	42,398	5	14	39,786	3	10	2,612	13	39	6
Tungawan	3	47,899	12,920	34,980	46,162	2	8	41,738	2	7	4,423	7	21	10
REGION 10		3,152,030	665,419	2,486,611	2,293,467			1,949,521			343,945			15
Bukidnon		1,709,426	341,378	1,368,048	1,088,250		1	901,026		1	187,223		1	17
Baungon	4	55,450	25,147	30,303	44,102	12	17	42,683	10	12	1,420	20	50	3
Cabanglasan	4	37,637	9,898	27,738	36,027	18	27	34,242	13	20	1,784	19	47	5
Damulog	4	39,315	7,996	31,319	30,664	20	33	28,104	20	34	2,560	18	40	8
Dangcagan	5	31,679	3,540	28,139	37,852	16	25	31,186	16	24	6,666	15	21	18
Don Carlos	2	88,582	14,555	74,027	57,869	7	7	43,988	9	11	13,881	4	6	24
Impasug-ong	2	76,265	9,265	66,999	69,630	5	5	53,356	5	5	16,274	2	3	23
Kadingilan	4	78,016	5,163	72,853	37,046	17	26	29,200	18	28	7,846	14	18	21
Kalilangan	4	59,640	19,252	40,388	39,582	15	22	33,217	14	22	6,365	16	22	16
Kibawe	4	78,058	9,591	68,467	41,928	13	18	32,148	15	23	9,780	9	11	23
Kitaotao	2	85,208	13,212	71,996	54,620	9	10	45,587	8	10	9,033	12	15	17
Lantapan	3	119,232	47,100	72,132	46,534	11	16	38,418	12	16	8,116	13	17	17
Libona	3	87,520	19,781	67,739	52,710	10	13	41,925	11	13	10,785	8	10	20
Manolo Fortich	4	147,203	42,358	104,845	82,792	2	2	73,369	2	2	9,422	11	14	11
Malitbog	1	103,647	8,836	94,812	41,765	14	19	29,604	17	27	12,160	6	8	29
Maramag	1	122,784	18,060	104,724	80,493	3	3	68,456	3	3	12,038	7	9	15
Pangantucan	3	80,879	19,552	61,327	57,715	8	8	48,276	7	8	9,439	10	13	16
Quezon	1	196,608	29,795	166,813	105,448	1	1	88,430	1	1	17,018	1	2	16
San Fernando	2	96,397	3,187	93,209	64,078	6	6	48,658	6	7	15,420	3	4	24
Sumilao	4	17,843	3,421	14,422	32,774	19	29	28,767	19	31	4,007	17	28	12
Talakag	2	107,463	31,668	75,795	74,620	4	4	61,410	4	4	13,209	5	7	18
Camiguin		80,600	17,878	62,722	108,004		4	96,821		4	11,184		4	10
Catarman	5	23,202	7,034	16,168	20,841	2	51	17,836	2	51	3,006	2	36	14
Guinsiliban	6	4,515	2,591	1,923	12,604	5	63	12,277	5	61	326	5	59	3
Mahinog	5	24,464	1,726	22,738	18,903	3	55	16,587	3	52	2,316	3	41	12
Mambajao	4	19,999	4,875	15,124	38,515	1	23	34,449	1	19	4,066	1	26	11
Sagay	5	8,421	1,652	6,769	17,141	4	58	15,672	4	55	1,469	4	49	9
Misamis Occidental		439,241	94,384	344,857	348,507		3	320,278		3	28,230		3	8
Aloran	4	27,617	3,261	24,356	28,793	5	36	25,024	6	37	3,769	2	31	13
Baliangao	5	21,394	5,752	15,643	19,747	12	52	18,949	12	50	798	9	55	4
Bonifacio	4	28,234	3,277	24,957	29,966	3	34	29,186	3	30	781	10	56	3
Calamba	5	50,599	10,339	40,261	25,074	8	43	23,737	7	40	1,337	8	52	5
Clarin	4	34,754	10,045	24,710	29,458	4	35	29,194	2	29	264	13	60	1
Concepcion	UN	16,679	3,777	12,903	13,949	14	61	6,857	14	63	7,092	1	20	51
Don Victoriano	5	31,505	2,974	28,530	24,614	9	44	22,825	9	43	1,789	7	46	7
Jimenez	4	51,308	9,182	42,126	31,834	2	30	28,163	4	33	3,671	3	32	12
Lopez-Jaena	4	35,703	9,638	26,065	25,244	7	42	23,448	8	42	1,796	6	45	7
Panaon	5	19,963	3,064	16,900	14,985	13	60	14,309	13	58	676	11	57	5
Plaridel	4	41,221	16,920	24,301	33,904	1	28	30,539	1	25	3,365	4	34	10
Sapang Dalaga	5	15,907	9,724	6,183	21,768	11	50	21,332	10	44	436	12	58	2
Sinacaban	5	25,314	3,543	21,771	22,490	10	47	20,267	11	48	2,223	5	42	10
Tudela	4	39,042	2,690	36,151	26,682	6	40	26,448	5	35	233	14	61	1
Misamis Oriental		922,763	211,780	710,983	748,706		2	631,397		2	117,309		2	16
Alubijid	4	30,988	2,714	28,274	28,246	12	38	13,946	22	59	14,300	2	5	51
Balingasag	3	60,370	10,931	49,439	49,322	4	14	39,549	4	15	9,774	3	12	20
Balingoan	5	20,720	5,699	15,021	17,895	21	56	16,539	18	53	1,356	20	51	8
Binuangan	6	13,096	2,763	10,334	12,922	24	62	11,913	24	62	1,009	22	54	8
Claveria	2	76,763	16,836	59,927	53,893	3	12	50,575	1	6	3,318	13	35	6
El Salvador	3	68,163	29,780	28,383	41,468	6	20	37,871	6	18	3,597	12	33	9
Gitagum	5	39,731	4,806	34,924	19,051	20	54	15,043	20	56	4,008	9	27	21
Initao	4	36,433	7,209	29,224	31,095	10	32	28,283	9	32	2,812	15	38	9
Jasaan	3	40,840	5,996	34,843	46,990	5	15	41,617	3	14	5,373	7	24	11
Kinoguitan	5	14,510	4,581	9,928	17,514	22	57	14,511	21	57	3,003	14	37	17
Lagonglong	5	26,906	6,113	20,793	21,872	18	49	19,899	17	49	1,973	17	43	9
Laguindingan	5	11,625	5,410	6,215	21,884	17	48	20,603	16	47	1,281	21	53	6
Libertad	5	12,872	1,346	11,525	16,225	23	59	16,035	19	54	190	23	62	1
Lugait	4	111,021	27,042	83,979	54,148	2	11	29,820	8	26	24,328	1	1	45
Magsaysay	4	38,900	1,766	37,134	28,381	11	37	24,525	12	39	3,856	10	29	14
Manticao	4	45,712	7,694	38,018	27,417	13	39	23,620	13	41	3,797	11	30	14
Medina	4	37,738	6,704	31,034	31,156	9	31	26,065	10	36	5,091	8	25	16
Naawan	5	28,788	5,774	23,014	23,516	15	45	20,776	15	46	2,740	16	39	12
Opol	4	53,384	9,874	43,510	41,372	7	21	33,887	7	21	7,485	5	19	18
Salay	5	28,512	5,136	23,376	23,118	16	46	21,292	14	45	1,826	18	44	8
Sugbong Cogon	5	15,242	7,244	7,999	19,391	19	53	13,647	23	60	5,744	6	23	30
Tagoloan	3	55,713	19,052	36,661	57,108	1	9	48,218	2	9	8,890	4	16	16
Talisayan	4	29,894	4,403	25,492	26,364	14	41	24,811	11	38	1,552	19	48	6
Villanueva	4	34,844	12,906	21,938	38,356	8	24	38,351	5	17	4	24	63	0

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

*1 – Municipal Ranking
2 – Regional Ranking

No rebidding for P21-B expressway project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has vetoed a plan of Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to rebid the P21 billion, 94-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway project.

In a meeting at the Clark special economic zone Tuesday, the President ordered the National Economic and Development Authority, which Neri heads, to approve the project after the Bases Conversion Development Authority successfully negotiated with the Japanese contractor to reduce the project cost from P27 billion to P21 billion.

BCDA president Rufo Colayco, who opposed Neri's sudden call for a rebid, hailed the President's decision, which he said should lead to the finalization of the contract with the project's funder, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Ms Arroyo decided against a rebid when Neri failed to guarantee that the project could be auctioned off to a new contractor with better terms in the next six months.

While the BCDA was in the middle of negotiations last June, Neri called for a rebidding and a redesign of the expressway project, which he said was "overpriced."

Colayco opposed a rebid, saying it would delay the project and strain relations with Japan, the country's biggest source of official development assistance.

The SBMA believes that infrastructure projects including the expressway will convince more foreign businesses to do business in the region.

The expressway project is seen to create the backbone of a new economic growth corridor, which in time would be more significant than Metro Manila.

It aims to provide a direct link among the Clark ecozone, Subic Freeport, the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac and the Bataan Technology Park.

Gov't to revise Visayas, Mindanao power plan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is revising its power development plans for the Visayas and Mindanao in light of the rapidly narrowing supply and demand gap in the country's two main grids.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the new plans would be unveiled sometime next week as revisions were still being finalized.

According to data from the National Power Corp., the Visayas grid will need an additional capacity of 900 megawatts (MW) from 2008-2014, while the Mindanao grid will need another 700 MW from 2009-2014.

Cebu alone will start needing capacity additions of at least 100 MW by 2009 and another 100 MW the year after that. However, there have been no committed capacity for the province up to now.

Perez said the next four to five years were critical for Cebu as its power supply levels would reach alarmingly low levels during that time, making new capacity additions crucial.

Given that it takes at least three to four years to plan, design, finance and actually build a power generation plant, the lack of committed capacity in Cebu less than five years before it encounters a shortfall is something in the DOE's mind in revising its power development plan for the province.

DOE data show that electricity demand in Cebu would grow 5.4 percent a year due to the robust tourism and export industries in the area.

The current peak demand in Cebu is placed at 447 MW, whereas its dependable capacity stands at only 376 MW.

The balance is met by power from geothermal-rich Leyte via the Leyte-Cebu transmission lines.

"Cebu is heavily dependent on power supply from the Leyte geothermal fields to meet its growing electricity requirements. What we want to see is for new power generating capacity to be installed in the area similar to the Panay sub-grid to increase the stability and reliability of supply in Cebu," Perez said.

The Panay sub-grid will also be needing an additional 50 MW in new capacity by 2008 plus another 50 MW of new capacity each year from 2010-2014.

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), in coordination with the National Power Corporation (NPC), will conduct a public bidding for the **Supply and Installation of Accelerometers, for Earthquake Monitoring** at the Angat Hydro-Electric Plant in San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan, denominated as **Contract No. AEM-1**. The Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is **P 7,749,280.63** chargeable against the MWSS-NBC common fund.

The bidding is open to all interested Contractors who have previous experience in the installation of the said monitoring instrument.

☐ **Major Scope of Work**

a. Supply and installation of four (4) units Accelerometers
b. Training of MWSS and NPC personnel, which includes lecture on basic seismology and reservoir-induced seismology, and operation and maintenance of the instruments
c. Submission of Factual Reports

☐ **Implementation Period** – 161 calendar days

Interested parties may apply for eligibility and secure the checklist of the eligibility requirements from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), located at the address below, starting September 27, 2004:

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Engineering & Project Management Dept.
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 929-6988 / 922-2568

The complete set of eligibility requirements must be submitted by the Applicants on or before **5:00 p.m. of October 14, 2004.** Only those Eligible Applicants, evaluated by the BAC based submitted eligibility requirements, will be invited to submit their bid proposals on the date of bidding, which will be announced later.

The reference time for the submission of eligibility requirements shall be the Bundy clock located at the above address. Late submission will not be accepted.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI – September 24 & 30, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 29, 2004
Contract No.: BCMD.2004-007

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has applied a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Electricity Market and Transmission Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Revenue Metering Instrument Transformers and Test Equipment. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank.
2. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), administering the bidding of the above project, invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Revenue Metering Instrument Transformers and Test Equipment for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents starting September 29, 2004 at the following address:

   Office of the Manager
   Bids and Contract Management Department
   National Transmission Corporation
   Ground Floor, Power Center
   Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman,
   Quezon City 1104, Philippines
   Telephone Nos.: 981-2212, 981-2213
   Telefax No.: 921-2308
   Email Address: rvalejandro@transco.ph
4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders or authorized representative upon submission of a letter of intent to the above address and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP 10,000.00) or One Hundred Eighty US Dollars (US$ 180.00) per set.
5. International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-envelope procedure. Bidders are to submit two sealed envelopes simultaneously, one containing the Technical Proposal and the other the Price Proposal, enclosed together in an outer single envelope. Initially, only the Technical Proposals are opened at the date and time advised in the Bidding Document. The Price Proposals remain sealed and are held in custody by the Purchaser. The Technical Proposals are evaluated by the Purchaser. No amendments or changes to the Technical Proposals are permitted. The objective of the exercise is to allow the Purchaser to evaluate the Technical Proposals without reference to price. Bid of Bidders which do not conform to the specified requirements may be rejected as deficient Bids, with the approval of the ADB. Following ADB approval of the technical evaluation and at an address, date and time advised by the Purchaser, the Price Proposals are opened in the public. The Price Proposals are evaluated and following approval by the ADB of the price evaluation, the Contract is awarded to the Bidder whose Bid has been determined to be the lowest evaluated substantially responsive Bid.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Seventy Thousand (US$70,000.00) US Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to above office address on or before November 19, 2004. The bid security must be included with the technical proposals. Late Bids shall be rejected.

   Pre-Bid Conference shall be on October 29, 2004 at the same venue.
7. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals and supplementary price proposals, if provided, will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the ADB of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR S. GEONZON**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee &
Vice President, Project Management
National Transmission Corporation

(PDI - Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 2004)

Ayala Corp. starts P5-B bond offer

AYALA Corp. yesterday started offering to investors P5 billion worth of its 5-year bonds.

This is by far the largest peso bond issue by a Philippine company.

The offer period is up to Oct. 4, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Ayala Corp. said it had secured last Tuesday the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval for the offer period.

The bonds have a coupon rate of 12.677 percent per year payable quarterly. The bonds will mature on Oct. 8, 2009.

Ayala Corp. has set the closing date of the offer period for Oct. 7 this year.

Ayala will use the proceeds of the bond issue in refinancing partially its dollar-denominated bonds, which were issued in 1999 and will fall due in 2005. In peso terms, the bond is valued at P8.35 billion as of Aug. 31.

To ensure the bond's wide distribution, Ayala has mandated a consortium of local and foreign banks as issue managers. The group is composed of BDO Capital and Investment Corp., BPI Capital Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank N.V., Land Bank of the Philippines, PCI Capital Corp. and Standard Chartered Bank.

Ayala's move to raise peso-denominated funding is consistent with its strategy to shift the bulk of its borrowings to local currency.

The issue was rated PRS Aaa, the highest for a debt issue and is defined as having the smallest degree of investment risk, by credit rating agency Philratings.

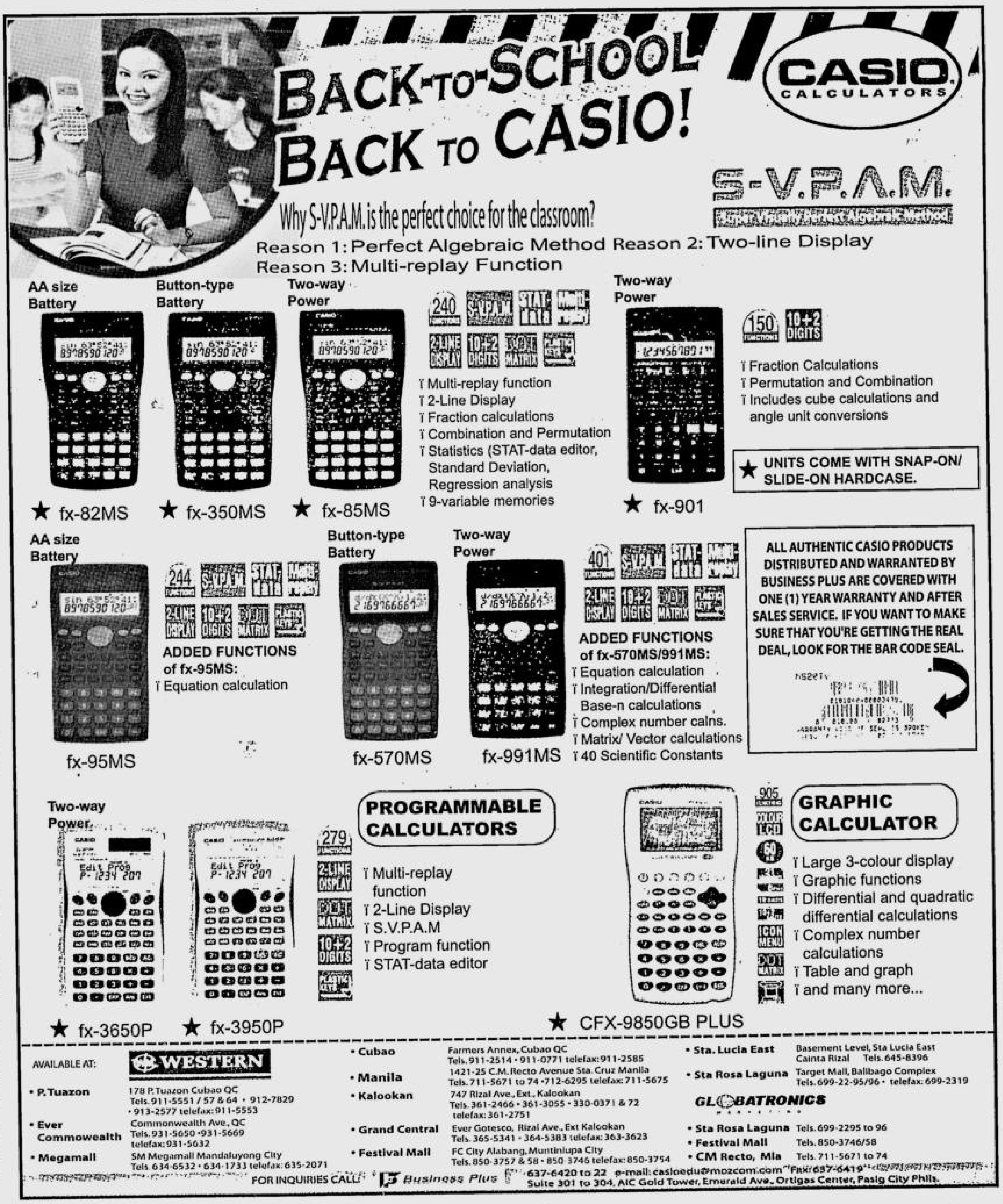
The issues give a good indication of the local market's confidence in Ayala Corp. It is expected to attract a wide investor base, as the minimum investment requirement was set at only P50,000. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Petron refinery bags ISO seal

PETRON Corpo. marked another milestone in environmental stewardship when it received the ISO-14001 environmental management certification for its Bataan Refinery last Sept. 22.

The global certifying body TUV Süddeutschland (SUD) Group cited Petron after it conducted a series of environmental audits at the oil firm's Bataan Refinery (PBR).

"The ISO-14001 certification affirms our long-standing commitment to environmental care in every aspect of our operations," said Alfred A. Trio, Petron vice president for refinery. "We have always endeavored to meet, if not exceed, environmental standards set by the government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. From the Philippine Clean Air Act to the Clean Water and Solid Waste Management Acts, Petron has always been at the forefront of environmental compliance."



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- Permutation and Combination
- Includes cube calculations and angle unit conversions

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Two-way Power fx-991MS

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- Matrix/ Vector calculations
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A BIKE enthusiast tests the handle of a 50cc motorcycle made by Zhongsen Motors of China, which was among those on display at a trade exposition in Manila. AFP

INFRA, SME, INVESTMENTS

3-pronged dev't strategy pushed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE Secretary Cesar V. Purisima yesterday said his department was pushing for a three-pronged approach that would drive the economy to the level at which leading markets in Asia are moving.

Purisima said the campaign involved the development of basic infrastructure, small and medium enterprises, and investments and exports.

"Our economy moves like a jeepney, at 40 kilometers per hour during rough times, but we should be attuned and move faster now that we are the superhighway of a global market," he said.

He explained that well developed infrastructure was necessary to attract businesses while funding was easily recovered.

PURISIMA

"Every peso invested in infrastructure creates a 10-fold multiplier effect—that is P10 for gross domestic product," Purisima said. "Assuming that the government collects 10 percent of the GDP in taxes, infrastructure pays for itself."

He had said earlier that the government was creating a Philippine Infrastructure Corp., which would undertake at least 10 major projects to help develop the economy.

Regarding SMEs, Purisima said Filipinos—especially the overseas contract workers—should be encouraged to start their own businesses and be their own boss rather than be employees.

"We need to convince them to enter into businesses other than rentier-type ones--such as the operation of tricycles, jeepneys—which offer very little multiplier effect," he said.

Further, he said the government needed to encourage more capital infusion from both local and foreign investors.

"Several equity bankers conservatively estimate that they manage over $100 billion in funds just from Filipinos. If we can convince these rich Filipinos to have faith in the economy and invest their money in the country then private domestic sources alone could finance a critical mass of projects that would jump-start and sustain the economy."

About concerns on "fiscal crisis," Purisima said the country was in no such situation.

"The country has access to financial markets and the budget is manageable," he said.

Intel remains bullish on RP

By Abigail L. Ho

CHIP giant Intel Corp. is unperturbed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement that the country is now in a fiscal crisis, saying its commitment to the country is for the long term.

Asked if the country's fiscal crisis situation would affect the company's investment strategies, Intel Corp. president and chief operating officer Paul Otellini answered: "No it's not."

"We are aware of the situation, of course. We've been here for 30 years. We are not a newcomer and we are not a new goer. You will see us for the long term. We have a long term perspective of our investments here," he told reporters in a briefing yesterday.

The world's largest chip maker, which first set up shop here in 1974, has assembly, test and office facilities at the 20-hectare Gateway Business Park site in General Trias, Cavite.

Intel's local arm, Intel Microelectronics Phil. Inc., assembles and tests Flash memory, microprocessors and chipsets.

Flash memory is a key component in cellular phones, which also plays an important role in computer manufacturing, automotive control units, digital cameras, photocopiers, games and other household applications.

Microprocessors and chip sets serve as the brain of the computer. Intel is the manufacturer of the widely used Pentium microprocessors.

The local Intel plant employs more than 5,000 employees who man a large number of production lines as well as various operations and functions vital to the chip maker's global operations.

In 2003, Intel invested $140 million in Asia to which its Philippine operations belonged.

While giving assurance that Intel would be here to stay for the long haul, Otellini also visited the company's General Trias plant yesterday to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the local Intel arm and the Commission on Information and Communications Technology.

RP taxes among lowest in Asia—DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance refuted a World Bank study that said "high" taxes in the country were partly to blame for low investments, saying taxes here were actually the lowest in the region.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan told reporters that Philippine tax rates were comparable with prevailing rates in the region, adding that the local value added tax rate was one of the lowest.

DOF data showed that the Philippines imposed a 10-percent VAT, against the 13 percent in Mongolia, 17 percent in China, and 12.5 percent in Sri Lanka. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Korea, Nepal, Indonesia and Thailand also impose a 10-percent VAT.

The DOF reacted to the World Bank Development Report for 2005, which said that high tax rates in the Philippines were among the top three constraints to doing business here, along with an unreliable power supply and corruption.

Other constraints cited were policy uncertainties and crime.

Tan said taxes could not be blamed for low investments because tax rates in the Philippines were competitive.

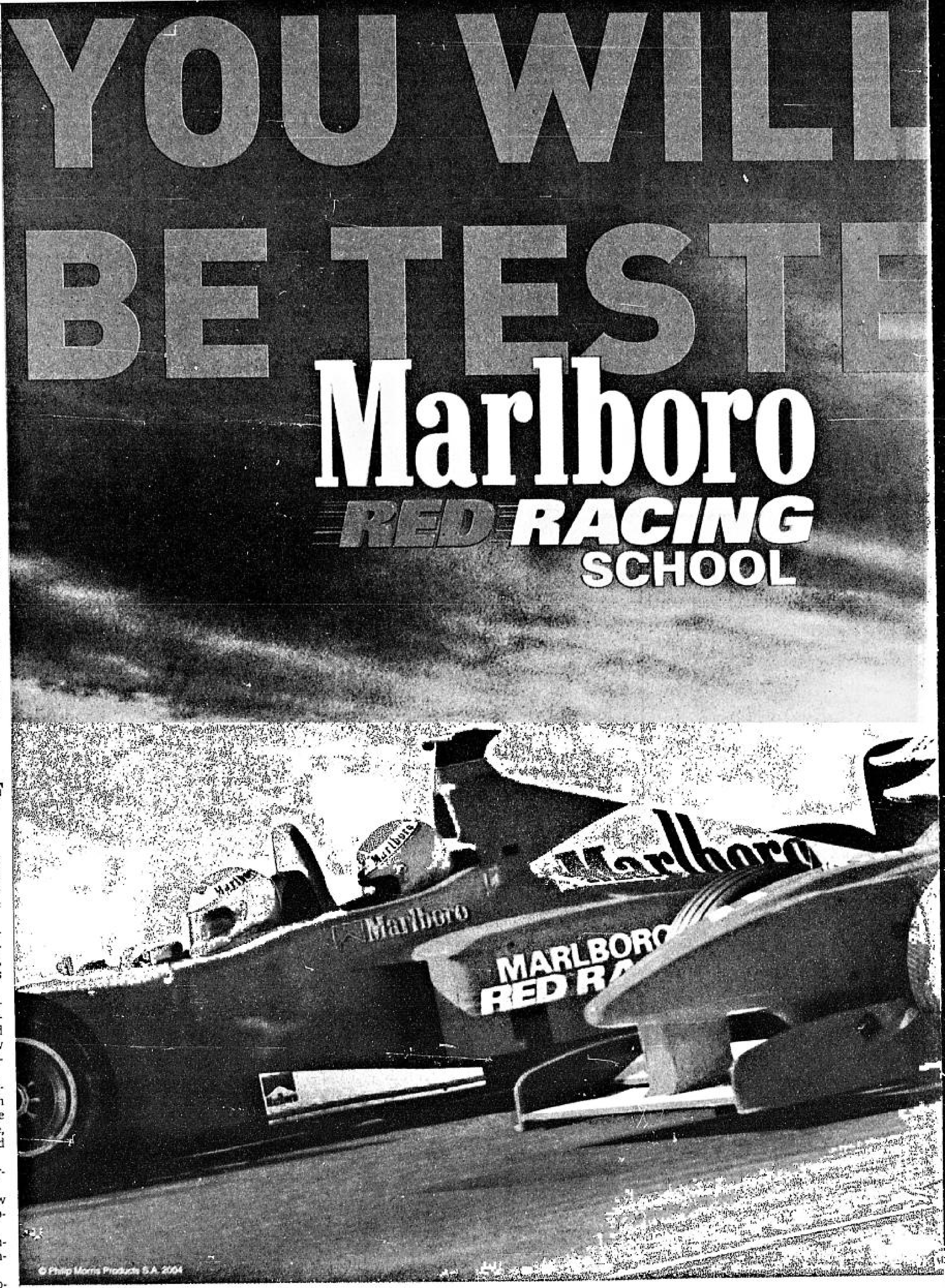
"The tax rates here are not so high, plus investors are privileged with so many fiscal incentives," said Tan.

Tan also defended the government's proposed tax measures, saying that the low tax rates in the country provide a lot of room for additional taxes. She added that the proposed measures were not even new ones, but merely rationalization of existing taxes.

Tan also said "sin" products, cigarettes and alcohol were taxed much lower in the Philippines than in other countries.

This made cigarettes and alcohol very affordable, even to the low-income Filipino earners, she said.

In the DOF's proposed bill on sin taxes, tax rates on cigarettes would be increased by 30.1 percent and to index it against inflation every two years.



Government Warnin
is dangerous

Milk firm heeds call to save underfed children

By Michelle V. Remo

CORPORATE CITIZEN

MJ BENEFICIARIES—Welfareville Mandaluyong

ROYSON is one of many children living in a slum area in Pasay City.

But he does not play like other boys his age, for he is so weakened by malnutrition that he could not even walk.

Fortunately, he became one of the beneficiaries of the feeding program of Mead Johnson Philippines.

And after just six months, he took his first steps.

Royson is one of the thousands of children that benefited from Mead Johnson's "Masustansyang Gatas Alay ng Mead Johnson sa Batang Pilipino."

Jo Ann Verdadero-Salamat, Mead Johnson corporate affairs manager, said Mead Johnson launched the program to respond to the government's urgent call to reduce the number of malnourished children.

According to Salamat, milk is expensive, thus poor families could not afford to buy it for their children.

Through the feeding program, children of poor families are given an equal chance of being fed with Mead Johnson milk products, like Enfagrow, Lactum, Alacta-Grow and Sustagen.

The milk-feeding program is divided into modules.

Under one module, 30 malnourished children from a project site, aged seven years old and below, are fed with their milk requirements every day for six months.

The number of glasses given to a child per day depends on his or her malnutrition level. Nutritionists gauge the health requirements of each children based on their age and weight.

Salamat said that a two-year-old, for instance, should weigh 12 kilos. The farther one is from his or her ideal weight, the more glasses of milk is given to that child.

The milk-feeding program is being carried out nationwide.

It is a tie-up between Mead Johnson, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the non-government organization Bisig ng Kalahi.

The local DSWD unit implements the program and Mead Johnson comes in to provide the free milk and help Kalahi in monitoring the children's progress.

Since the program started in July 2002, over 3,000 children in 97 sites have been fed. Mead Johnson spends about P120,000 worth of free milk for every project site, Salamat said.

Salamat recalls Royson's graduation.

"The graduation was very emotional. When his name was called, he personally walked toward the stage to get his diploma. Everybody was so happy to see him walking; it was like a miracle" said Salamat.

Salamat said that the program does not end with feeding the children with milk. Aware of the importance of sustainable development, Mead Johnson, DSWD and Kalahi concludes each module by giving nutrition training to the children's mothers.

She said the training includes teaching mothers how to prepare low-cost nutritious meals, advising them on what healthy yet cheap food to buy from the market, budgeting, and cooking.

She cited viands like ginataang sayote with dilis and malunggay, as well as munggong gisado with dried fish as some of the low-cost yet nutritious menu that are taught to the mothers.

Salamat said the training courses are prepared by the DSWD, which also takes charge of sending the lecturers.

Mead Johnson likewise sends its nutritionists to give lectures, she said.

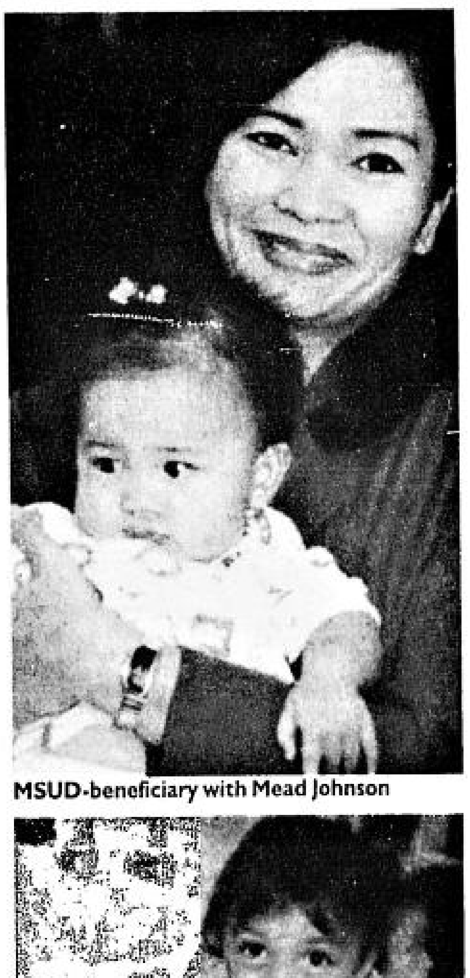
Teaching mothers with meager resources how to provide nutritious food to their children is important to ensure sustainability of the children's health.

Salamat said Mead Johnson hoped that the milk-feeding program, which the company commits to be its permanent social-responsibility project, could significantly help in the government's nation-building efforts.

Keeping Filipinos—especially the young—healthy is one of the first considerations before the government could even think of economic progress, so believes Mead Johnson.

Mead Johnson came to the Philippines in 1962, and established its first manufacturing plant in the country, situated along Chino Roces in Makati, in 1968.

Mead Johnson Philippines is now one of the leading milk manufacturers in the country, and is contributing dollars to the Philippines through its exports to Indonesia.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
LEYTE NORMAL UNIVERSITY
TACLOBAN CITY

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR THE SELECTION OF THE LEYTE NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENCY

Minimum Personal Qualifications of the SUC Presidency:

1. Preferably be at least forty (40) years old but not more than 61 years old on the date of the application for the position.
2. Must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines.
3. A holder of a Doctoral Degree.
4. Must have a proven track record as top administrator (at least Deanship level), whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by a document (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the university.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Note : Qualified applicants must submit their accomplished pro-forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form and Curriculum Vitaé (CV) Forms to the Office of the Board Secretary, LNU Board of Regents together with the following supporting documents.

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé
2. Xerox Copy of Transcript of Records or Diplomas
3. Neuro-psychiatric Evaluation Result
4. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
5. Clearance Certificates from the following:
    - a. Ombudsman
    - b. Sandigan Bayan
    - c. Civil Service Commission
    - d. National Bureau of Investigation
6. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Development Plant for the university within a four-year period.

Important : Applicants must submit six (6) sets/copies each of their Pro-Forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form, CV Forms and all supporting documents mentioned above not later than **October 29, 2004**. The Pro-forma Application Letter, Applicant's Information Form and CV Forms can be obtained from the Office of the Board Secretary of the LNU Board of Regents, LNU, Paterno St., Tacloban City.

(PDI – Sept. 15 & 30, 2004)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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CAREGIVER T-5280747

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
Branch 30
Surigao City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME FROM MARIA CORISA BAUTISTA TO CORISA BAUTISTA AND CORRECTION OF ENTIRES IN HER BIRTH RECORD

CORISA BAUTISTA BENITEZ,
Petitioner,
- versus - SP. PROC. NO. 6278
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF CEBU CITY,
Respondent.
x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

A verified petition has been filed by petitioner Corisa Bautista Benitez, through her counsel, on 21 July 2004, praying for the change of said petitioner's first name as well as for the correction of erroneous entries regarding the latter's gender and also the surname of her mother, all appearing in her birth record on file with the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Cebu City, alleging among others:

"That petitioner was born on 18 November 1954 at Cebu City to spouses Isagani Bautista and Corazon Kaimo; that the fact of birth of petitioner was duly registered in the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Cebu City; that in the said birth record, the first name of petitioner was entered as "Maria Corisa"; that since "petitioner's birth until the present the latter has been using habitually, continuously and actually the first name Corisa; that in the same birth record, the sex of the petitioner as well as the maiden surname of her mother were erroneously entered as "male" and "Caimo", respectively; that such entries are erroneous because petitioner's true and correct sex as well as the maiden surname of her mother are "Female" and "Kaimo", respectively; and, that petitioner wanted to change her first name as well as desires to correct the erroneous entries concerning her sex and the maiden surname of her mother, all appearing in her birth record in order to avoid any unwarranted confusion. Hence, this petition."

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby given due course and set for hearing on 22 October 2004, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, at the Session Hall of this Court, Hall of Justice Bldg., Surigao City, at which date, time and place any interested person may appear and show cause, if he has any, why this petition should not be granted.

Accordingly, the petitioner is hereby ordered to publish this order once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the entire Philippines before the above-scheduled hearing of this petition at her own expense.

Let copy of this order be furnished the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Cebu City. Likewise, let copy of this Order and the petition be also furnished the Office of the Solicitor-General, Makati City, all for their information and appropriate action.

SO ORDERED.

Given in Chambers this 12th day of August 2004 at Surigao City Philippines.

(Sgd.) FLORIPINAS C. BUYSER
Presiding Judge

(PDI--Sept. 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **National Transmission Corporation**, Invitation to Bid: Consultancy Services for Transco 2003 External Asset Valuation Project published Sept. 27, 2004 in this paper, paragraph 5 should have read "All bids... for the Contract to bid shall be **REJECTED** instead of **subjected**.

Our apologies.

Silver Year for DMMHS-QC Class '80

MEMBERS of Don Mariano Marcos High School-QC Class '80 (now San Francisco High School) will mark their Silver Alumni Homecoming on Jan. 15, 2005 at St. Charbel Executive Village Clubhouse, Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora, Quezon City from 5 p.m. onwards. Members who have not yet registered are reminded to contact: Ramon A. Zamuco, Jr. at 885-8935/ 0916-8919399; Raul Bernal at 920-1945/09178274010; Ophie Ramos at 920-1945/ 09163425692; Emma Pagdilao at 0917-5354945. Batch mates may access our group email address: dmmhs_batch80@yahoogroups.com.

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Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance Brokers, Inc.
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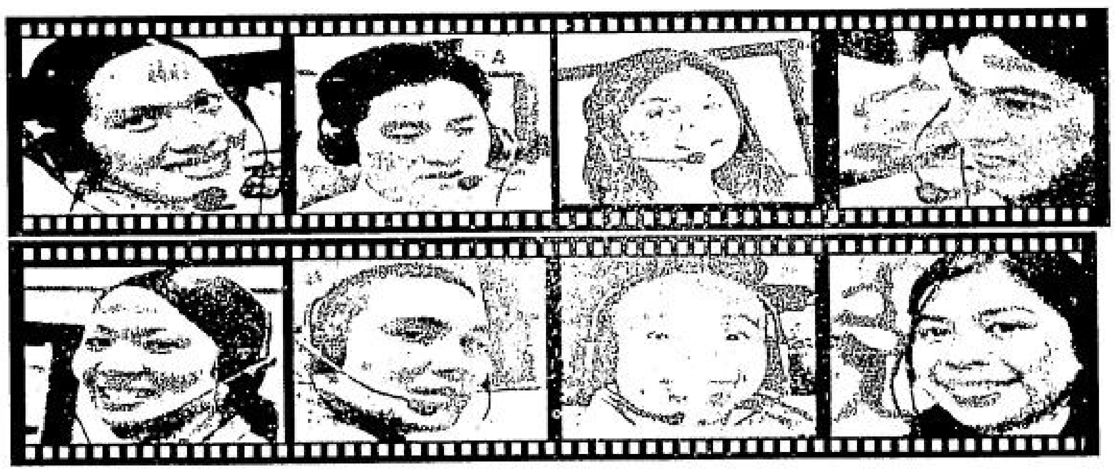

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- ☞ they love exploring new opportunities and learning new things
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- ☞ they're comfortable conversing with foreigners (Americans, Hispanics, Europeans, Asians) using American English
- ☞ they're good with basic math - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
- ☞ they have a passion for helping other people

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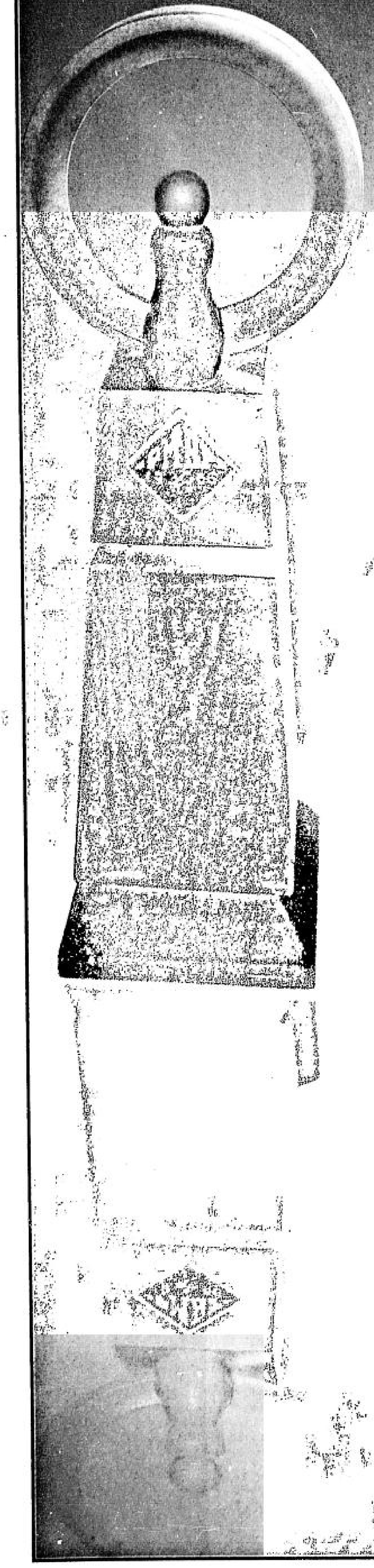
Employer of the Year

2004

Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)



The "Employer of the Year" Award by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) is considered the most coveted award in the area of human resources management.

We, in Pfizer, are deeply honored to have been given this outstanding distinction. This recognition further affirms Pfizer's selection as one of the "Best Employers" in 2001 by the prestigious Hewitt Associates-Asia Wall Street Journal-Far Eastern Economic Review.

At the core of Pfizer are its values and leader behaviors which embolden our vision, shape our decisions and propel our business leadership in pharmaceuticals, consumer health, animal health and gelatin capsules. The successful acquisition of Warner-Lambert and Pharmacia in the last few years proved that values and leader behaviors are alive at Pfizer.

Pfizer actualizes its Core Value of Respect for People through innovative Employer of Choice initiatives designed to draw out excellence from colleagues in the pursuit of extraordinary goals. Among others, we are proud of our company-wide leadership development and mentoring programs in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management, our total compensation package that includes the pioneering flexible benefits scheme and opportunities to establish work-life balance.

Pfizer lives out its Core Value of Community through groundbreaking partnership programs involving major stakeholders in government, medical community, patient groups, academe and industry. These programs articulate our sincere commitment to making a sustainable and significant difference in the community by addressing health care concerns.

This award is a tribute to the men and women of Pfizer who have the passion to making the lives of our fellow Filipinos healthier, longer and happier.

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Customer Focus

Innovation

Integrity

Leadership

Performance

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Respect for People

Teamwork

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BUDGET & CONTROL OFFICER

[illegible]

IT INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT OFFICER

[illegible]

LEGAL & COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT

[illegible]

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GENERALI GROUP

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Municipality of Murcia
Province of Negros Occidental
Republic of the Philippines

September 27, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Murcia, Negros Occidental invites interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the

CONSTRUCTION OF MURCIA PUBLIC MARKET
[2-storey Main Bldg., Dry Market and Wet Market Bldgs.]
Poblacion, Murcia, Negros Occidental

1. The approved budget cost (ABC) for the contract to be bid is Php 33,500,000.00.
2. Application for Eligibility is open to Contractors with PCAB license and registration for CATEGORY – Large A and above for buildings.
3. The scope of work for the project includes the supply of materials, labor, tools and equipment.
4. Eligibility forms/documents are available for issuance starting October 18, 2004 at the Municipal Treasurer's Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 200.00.
5. Deadline for submission and receipts of eligibility documents and LOI (Letter of Intent) is on October 25, 2004 at the BAC Office, Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m.
6. Eligibility checks and opening of application for Eligibility is on October 26, 2004, Municipal Hall at 9.00 a.m.
7. Bidding documents shall be issued to eligible bidder(s) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 starting November 4, 2004.
8. Pre-bid conference is set on November 11, 2004, Murcia Municipal Hall 10:00 a.m.
9. Deadline for submission of bidding documents to BAC and opening of Bids is on November 22, 2004 at the Municipal Hall, 10:00 a.m.
10. All applicable provision under the IRR or RA 9184 shall govern all stages of the bidding procedures.

LGU-Murcia reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the LGU.

(Sgd.) INOCENTES S. CONTE
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement/s.

Date/Time & Place of Bidding	November 9, 2004, 9:00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No.	PB 104-2004-346
Specification	PR#PB104-2004-346 METAL CONDITIONER, ANTI-FRICTION Packaging 20 liters/pail Specifications: 1. Color – ASTM D-1500 Less than 1.0 2. Viscosity at 40 deg. C ASTM D-445 150 cSt or better Viscosity at 100 deg. C ASTM D-445 12 cSt or higher 3. Flash Point ASTM D-445 Not under 200 deg. C 4. Pour point ASTM D-97 13 deg. C or better 5. Specific Gravity at 15 deg C ASTM D-70 1.180 6. Solubility in water Negligible 7. Auto ignition Temp. ASTM E-659 Above 230 deg C 8. Percent solids Not measurable 9. Desired Features are provided in the Purchase Requisition
Approved Budget	PB104-2004-346 – P950,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	October 14, 2004, 2:00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Submission of First & Second Envelope, Opening / Evaluation of first Envelope (Technical Documents)	October 28, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	November 9, 2004, 9:00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Bulla – BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telefax number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 starting September 30, 2004 to October 20, 2004, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NN and from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184. Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A Bidders Bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit 1.5% Bank Guarantee, 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond.

A Performance Bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) NELSON J. HOMENA
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI-Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2004)

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

September 22, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	**Procurement of One Thousand (1,000) Pieces Commemorative Plates**
Location of the Project	:	**BIR National Office**
Approved Budget	:	**P1,500,000.00**
Delivery Date	:	**Thirty (30) Calendar days upon receipt of Notice of Award**
Source of Funding	:	**BIR's Appropriations**

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **September 24, 2004**, upon payment of **non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)**.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 7, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the **6th Floor, Procurement Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**.

Deadline for the submission and opening of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 19, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Procurement Division Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547, 926-5538 and 928-2026 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.lbo@bir.gov.ph until October 18, 2004.

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS V. REGALADO**
Assistant Commissioner - Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2004)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2004-017

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/ Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	Oct. 19, 2004 10:00 A.M. Kañao Room,	Mechanical Parts for Air Compressor of PB 105 "Daihatsu"	APD PB040907-MMAD1584 (PB2)	1,109,630.00
II		Supply of services, materials & equipment for the remanufacturing of Cylinder Heads & Liners and Turbocharger Gas Casing of PB 105	APD PB040908-MMAD1589 (PB2)	1,360,000.00
III	Oct. 19, 2004 2:00 P.M. Kañao Room	Portable Network Analyzer, Satec PNA295-1 or equivalent	VMB PB041019-MMVB1833	1,360,000.00
IV		Mechanical Parts for Viga DPP "Perkins"	APD PB041019-MMAD1834	1,753,000.00
V	Oct. 29, 2004 2:00 P.M. Hariraya Room	Hauling of Diesel fuel from pick-up points to PB 119, PB 108, Jolo DPP, Basilan DPP, Bongao DPP, Siasi DPP, W. Simunul DPP, Sibutu DPP, Balimbing DPP, M. Mangkaw DPP, Tandubas DPP, Mapun DPP, PB 111, Kalamansig DPP, Dinagat DPP, Loreto DPP, Abad Santos DPP, Talicud DPP, Balut DPP, Ninoy Aquino DPP, Hikdop DPP	MLT PB041020-MMMT1835	43,213,490.00

Note : A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I – IV	October 5, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Hariraya Function Room
Schedule V	October 14, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Pahiyas Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357 / 9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00 per schedule starting on September 23, 2004 from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act. No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/ Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - September 23 & 30, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: September 28, 2004
Contract No.: BCMD.2004-004R

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2004-004R - Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles For CY 2004 for the Operation and Maintenance of TransCo.
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supplying and delivering the required Steel Poles to the designated Substations of National Transmission Corporation.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid is P81,038,410.00 from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors who are in the steel poles business for at least five (5) years and have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
5. Foreign bidders who wish to participate in the procurement of goods must prove that their respective country of origin grant reciprocal rights to Filipino citizens with respect to procurement of goods by the government, in compliance with R.A. No. 5183.
6. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
7. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on **September 30, 2004** at the **Bids and Contract Management Department, National Transmission Corporation**, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.
8. Deadline for submission of sealed, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on **November 10, 2004, 1:30 p.m.** at the Felimon C. Rodriguez Function Room, National Transmission Corporation, Power Training Center Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9 Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **October 10, 2004** at the above venue.
10. Manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Suppliers/Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A certificate of Registration will be issued to suppliers/ contractors upon approval.
    - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
    - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
    - Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) issued by the BIR;
    - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
    - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;

    For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

    Note: Prospective bidders may also submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid proposals (Technical and Price)
11. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
12. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
13. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR S. GEONZON**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Sept. 30, 2004)

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OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

Felicidad Lumbo Sarmiento

...is now away from the body and at home with our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:8)...

Our loving God healed her completely on September 27, 2004 at the age of 69.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband **Eladio**, her children **Betty** and **Edgar**, **Lolit** and **Jun**, **Abel** and **Ruth** and her grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington East, Pasig City.

Interment is on October 2, 2004, 11:00 a.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Jose M. Buhain

*has joined his wife **Aurora** and peacefully rested in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on September 28, 2004.*

His loving children **Alda** and spouse **Benny**, **Jose Angelito**, and **Jose Jr.** and spouse **Claudine**; his loving grandchildren **Martha**, **Aaron** and **Amos**; his sisters **Mrs. Elisa B. Parungao**, **Mrs. Patricia B. Custodio** and **Mrs. Rosalina B. Navarro**; his relatives and friends request for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Memorial — Hope Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Cremation will be on October 2, 2004, 8:00 a.m., at the Holy Trinity Crematorium, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Whoever
finds his
life will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses his life
for my sake
will find it.
Matthew 10:39

ELENA MALLARI QUEJADA

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 28, 2004 at the age of 51.

A loving wife to her husband **Reynaldo**; responsible mother to her child **Noel Angelo**, sweet sister to **Divina**, **Eligio** and **Bernardo Mallari**, sister-in-law to **Edwin del Rosario**, **Cely** and **Corazon Mallari**.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino on October 3, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Quezon City.

RODOLFO T. CUNANAN

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 28, 2004 at the age of 90.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation Mass will be at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels Crematorium at 12:00 noon, Friday, October 1, 2004.

DEATH NOTICES

LORNA Q. VALENZUELA
Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 28, 2004 at the age of 45.
Her body lies at her residence at Matuyatuya, Torrijos, Marinduque.
Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004
at the Matuyatuya Cemetery.

AUGUSTO P. TRINIDAD
Joined his Creator on September 27, 2004 at the age of 82.
His body lies in state at the residence of former Congresswoman
Pacita T. Gonzalez & DOJ secretary Raul Gonzalez.
Interment will be on October 2 in Iba, Zambales, Catholic Cemetery.

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In Loving Memory of

Col. (Ret.) U.S. Air Force

RODRIGO B. FLORO, M.D.

of Meycauayan, Bulacan

Who peacefully joined his Creator on September 26, 2004 at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife, Lourdes Dimaano, M.D.;
children Cristina D. Floro, D.M.D.; Clarissa F. Rhode, M.D. and Patrick Rhode, M.D.;
Atty. Rodrigo D. Floro, Jr. and Celeste Africa Floro, C.F.A.; LCpl (USMC) Robert J. Floro;
grandchildren Sofia Kathyrn Rhode and Jack Patrick Rhode;
brothers Ricardo and Imelda Floro; Atty. Jose Antonio and Lourdes V. Floro;
sisters Rosario and Antonio Galang; Carmelita and Alberto Garcia
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla dela Virgen,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.
Funeral Mass and final rites will be held
on October 1, 2004, Friday; 9:30 AM at the Main Church.

In lieu of flowers, please give donations to Tuloy Foundation, Inc.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

FÉ TORRENTE YOINGCO

"MOM"

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 30, 2003.

Her husband **ANGEL Q. YOINGCO;**
children, grandchildren, brother and other relatives
shall offer Holy Masses at the following churches
on September 30, 2004:

Ina ng Laging Saklolo, *Tagaytay City*	6:30 AM
De La Salle, *Dasmariñas,Cavite*	12:15 PM
Daughters of Charity, *Tagaytay City*	6:30 PM
St. John Don Bosco Parish, *Mandaluyong City*	6:30 AM; 6:00 PM
Sto. Domingo Church, *Quezon City*	8:00 AM; 6:00 PM
National Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes, *Q.C.*	6:00 PM
Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, *Fairview, Q.C.*	6:00 AM
San Lorenzo Parish Church, *Pleasant Hill, SJDM, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
Sta. Rafaela Maria (House of Spirituality) *Gloria III, T.Sora*	6:00 AM

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit
'Announce the death of

SISTER IDMARA, S.Sp.S.
(NELIA NOLLEDO)

on September 29, 2004 at the age of 71
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Saturday, October 2, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

At Christ the King Seminary
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will follow.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

"A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has all others shine brighter."

Atty. Dolores Peralta Acuña

Former Board Member of Pangasinan - 1956-1964
Founder
Rural Bank of Malasiqui, Inc.
Rural Bank of Bautista, Inc.
Kaunlaran Rural Bank, Inc.

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband Atty. Jose Al Acuña and son Gil
at the age of 82 last September 25, 2004.

Her bereaved children: **Gil** (deceased) & **Monet, Prescy & Pete Cruz, Menchu & Bob Sacramento, Becky, Boy & Marites, Annabelle & Vincent Pastoral, Eric & Rosalie.** Her loving grandchildren **Joselle, Joel, Josef, Michelle, Reg, Dada & Erik, Richie, Jasmine, King, Jeffrey, Ana, Karmina, Vanessa, J-5, Rica, Gary, Alvin, Harold, Avigail, Bernadette, Monica, Junior, Jiro, Erica,** request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, October 2, 2004, immediately after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Paz Crematory.

e 4

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3-liter 'sumos' go head-to-head-to-head

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

RIGHT off the bat, we wish to apologize for our seeming insensitivity to the "fuel-misers." Why so? The next paragraphs will talk about big engines, seven-figure price tags, and overly luxurious amenities. These certainly wouldn't sit well with the budget- and fuel-conscious car buyers who might be seeking us for advice on how and where best to buy a half-million-peso worth compact sedans and hatchbacks that run 12 km to the liter.

CAMRY has new high intensity discharge headlamps and headlamp leveling device.

[illegible] V6
Fuel supply: Electronic Fuel Injection
Type V6, 24V, DOHC, VVT-i
Engine displacement 2,995cc
Max power 212hp/5,800rpm
Max Torque 298Nm/4,400 rpm
Transmission type 5-speed AT with super ECT
Dimensions
Length 4,825mm
Width 1,810mm
Height 1,505mm
Safety
Wipplash Injury Lessening
Anti-lock brake system with 4-wheel Electronic Brake force and brake assist
Clearance and back sonar sensors

But, you know, sometimes we have to go against the grain, jump off the bandwagon and counter the flow. Just to do things differently. And, believe it or not, big engines still do command a large market in this country regardless of the direction fuel prices are going.

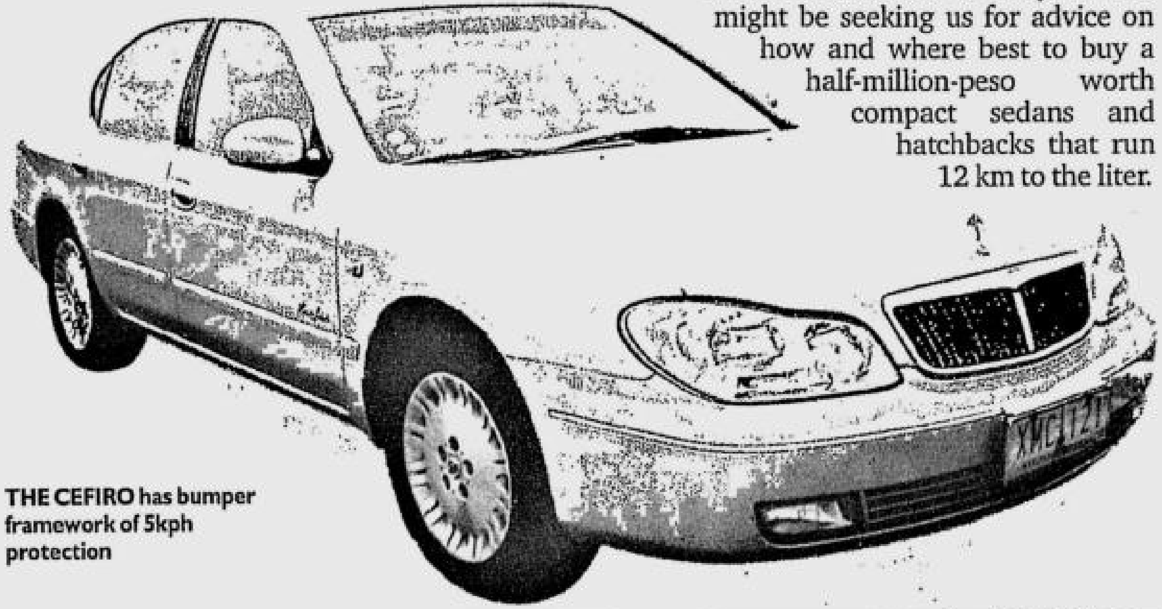
And what's more, today's big engines know how to maximize fuel on their own, thanks to technology. Compared to the 3-liter V6s and V8s three decades ago, the present EFI (electronic fuel injection) technology, for instance, enables these engines to generate the same power using less fuel. So, even if you compare a 3-liter EFI with a carbureted non-EFI 2-liter, the two might end up consuming the same volume of fuel.

Also take into consideration the power-to-weight ratios. Big engines on big SUVs consume a lot of fuel. But transplant the same engine to lighter sedan bodies, and you get the power of an SUV for less energy spent. Still, automotive experts stress that big engines are still big engines. When they run on idle, 3-liter engines consume more fuel than smaller engine displacements. That's bad news if you're on a 3-liter car and you're always stuck in traffic.

3 big sedans

But then, if you have the money to burn and your car's interior amenities make you forget the harsh realities 80 percent of the Filipino population have to face every day, then being

3-LITER/ C2



THE CEFIRO has bumper framework of 5kph protection

[illegible]
Fuel supply: Electronic Concentrated Engine Control System
Type VQ30DE DOHC 24Valve
Engine displacement 2,988cc
Max power 220ps/6,400
Max Torque 29.3 kg-m/4,000 rpm
Transmission type 4-speed AT with Overdrive
Dimensions
Length 4,875
Width 1,780 mm
Height 1,435mm
Safety
Rear backup sensor
Antilock brake system with Electronic Brake force and brake assist
Passenger safety cell

Vehicle show ends Sunday

THE 2004 CALTEX Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show yesterday opened with much fanfare to the motoring public.

Presented by Caltex Delo Sport, the show is ongoing until Sunday at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. It is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Apart from the multitude of crowd drawing show cars on display, the spotlight will also be on Delo Sports Synthetic Blend. It is a synthetic-based engine oil designed for gasoline- or diesel-powered SUVs, 4x4s and pickups of American, European or Japanese make, especially those with turbochargers, superchargers, intercoolers and EGR systems.

Said Caltex product category manager Jean-Ernest Maningo: "We believe that the Caltex Delo Sport Truck, Custom Car and Bike Show 2004 is one of the best events where we can showcase our product to the motoring public."

Organized by TradeShow International Inc., the 2004 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show has become the "in" venue for sport truck, custom car, automotive racing and now, motor bike enthusiasts bringing together under one

VEHICLE/ C2

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ACCORD 2.4 VTI AT	P 180,000	P 14,299

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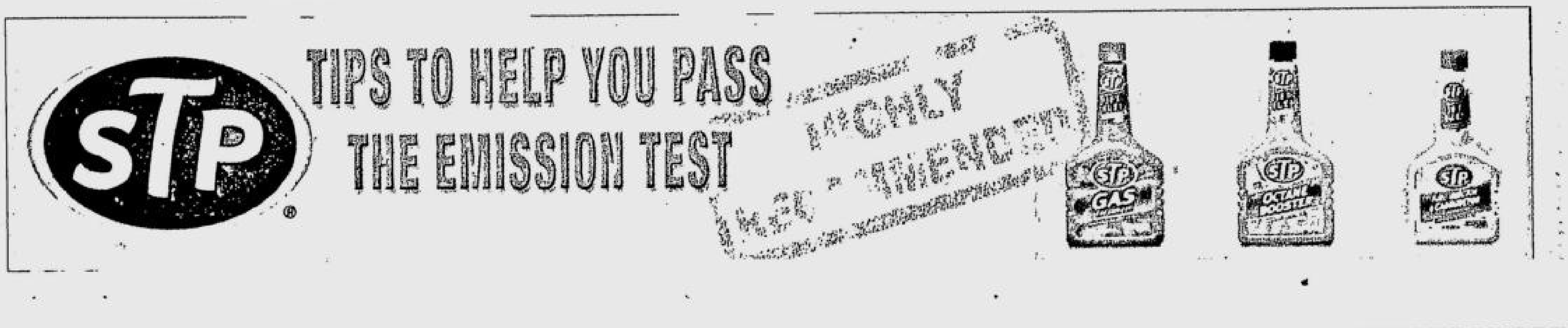

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TOYOTA AUTOPARTS
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TAP IS now part of Toyota's global supply network.

WITH HIGH hopes, President Arroyo joins (from left) TAP and TMP chair George SK Ty, Toyota Motor Corp. (Japan) honorary chair Dr. ShoichiroToyoda and Mayor Leon Arcillas of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in witnessing the first batches of locally made transmissions shipped to Japan.

Japan starts importing RP-made transmissions

By Charles E. Buban

THE PHILIPPINES, taking a step closer to becoming a major player in the global market, has started exporting transmission assemblies to Japan last week.

This was realized when Toyota Autoparts Corp. (TAP), the Japanese automaker's autoparts production unit in the Philippines, surpassed the requirements and quality standards set by Toyota Japan for transmission assemblies that it will utilize for its global supply network.

"The TAP-made transmissions now possess the same level of performance in terms of quality and cost as Japanese-made units," said Toyota Motor Corp. honorary chair Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda who flew in from Japan to witness the ceremony held at the Toyota complex in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Toyoda expects TAP to continue developing as an important production and export base of automotive transmissions for the world's second largest automaker.

"For starters, Toyota has just assigned TAP the role of a production base for the company's global market," he added.

Plant modernization

Since 1992, TAP has produced 1.9 million transmission units, the bulk of which were exported to Taiwan, India, South Africa and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In 2002, TMC invested close to $266 million (P15 billion) in modernizing the Laguna manufacturing plant and starting the production of new transmission models.

These new transmissions—including the "G" type main transmissions—are now a major export component of the Toyota global supply network.

As of March 2004, export of Toyota transmissions to these countries reached $55 million.

$380 million in 2004

"With the inclusion of Japan among the list, we foresee exports reaching $380 million (P21.4 billion) in 2004," revealed TAP and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. chair George S.K. Ty.

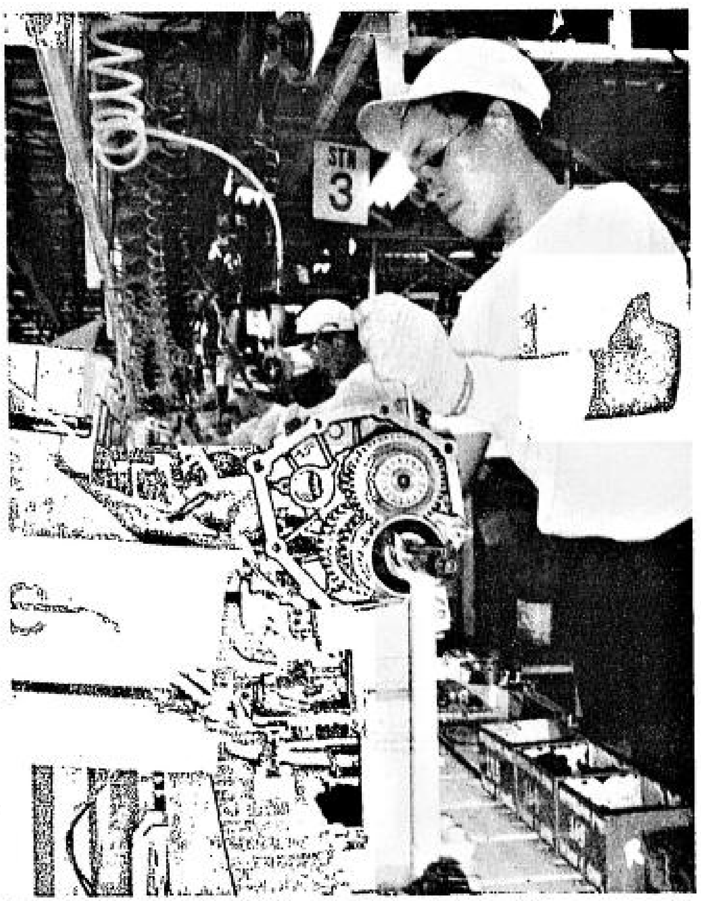
"This event marked a milestone in Toyota's operation here in the Philippines as it was the first time that an automaker set the stage for its export to Japan of locally made transmission units," Ty revealed.

Toyota expects this figure to grow to nearly $400 million (P22.5 billion) in 2005 and $428 million (P24.1 billion) in 2006.

"Toyota is determined to help the Philippine auto industry grow, and to contribute to the Philippine economy in the years to come," assured Toyoda.

Investing $124M more

President Macapagal-Arroyo who was also present during the ceremony hailed TAP's plan to infuse P7 billion more into the Philippines in the next two years.



TAP HAS equipped its Filipino workforce with the skill to compete in the global stage.

President Arroyo was informed that the additional investment will be for capacity upgrades and plant expansion from 2004 to 2006.

The President also thanked Toyota for showing its support to the country's growing local supplier base, which is in line with the government's thrust of promoting small and medium enterprises.

Apart from employing more than 10,000 Filipino skilled workers, a number of SMEs are, directly or indirectly, benefiting from Toyota operations here in the country.

Commitment to local industry

"Through technology transfer, we support the growth of the local enterprises that comprise the majority of our supplier base," said Ty.

In addition, to the transmission assemblies now being exported to Japan, TAP has already been producing 900,000 units of constant-velocity joints (CVJs), with the large portion of them being exported to six countries, including Japan.

Said Ty: "One primary task that we have set up for ourselves is to enhance Toyota's contribution to the Philippine economy by expanding exports from the Philippines. The addition of the transmission assemblies among those that we export to Japan is just the fulfillment of this aim."

3-liter 'sumos' go head-to-head-to-head

From page C1

stuck in traffic is no more worrisome than improving your golf handicap. And you may be licking your chops over the three 3-liter sedan entries of Toyota, Honda and Nissan.

The 1525-kg Toyota Camry 2004's 3-liter V6 engine musters up to 212 hp over 5,800 rpm and drives like a bullet with a max torque of 298Nm/4,400 rpm. The heavier (1,843 kg) Honda Accord has max power of 236.72 hp and a max torque of 287.43 Nm over 5,000 rpm, while the 1,540-kg Nissan Cefiro boasts of 218 hp over 6,400 rpm and a torque of 287.43 Nm over 4,000 rpm.

The Camry is a big car that accelerates like a sports car-power at the seat of your pants. Aerodynamics could be the edge for Cefiro, as it has the sportiest stance in height at 1,435 mm versus the Accord's 1,455 and the Camry's 1,505.

We were able to test-drive the three big sedans, although under three different circumstances. There was only one passenger when we drove the Camry. There were four of us when we drove the Accord, and it received the most punishment when we forced it to negotiate the steep snake pit route to Talisay, Batangas.

When we powered out of the curves, the Accord even oversteered. Surprising, considering it was a front-wheel-drive car.

But here's the real story. While going up from Talisay, we purposely didn't push the traction control system (TCS) button to see how it performed, while we powered it out on the sharp curves at 40 to 50 kph. The car tended to understeer, the tires in front were screeching.

When we turned on the TCS, the thing went like it was on rails, and the tires got quiet, the car was actually handling better and felt like all four tires were working the curves. Amazing, isn't it?

Roller coaster

The Accord's TCS was consistent. When we turned it off, the car understeered, as expected. We turned it on again, and the Accord adjusted accordingly (pardon the pun).

On TCS, the Accord followed the route faithfully like a roller coaster stuck to its rails. Add to that was the smoother shift of the five-speed transmission, featuring better choices in the gearing ratio because the rpm now drops in a better torque range.

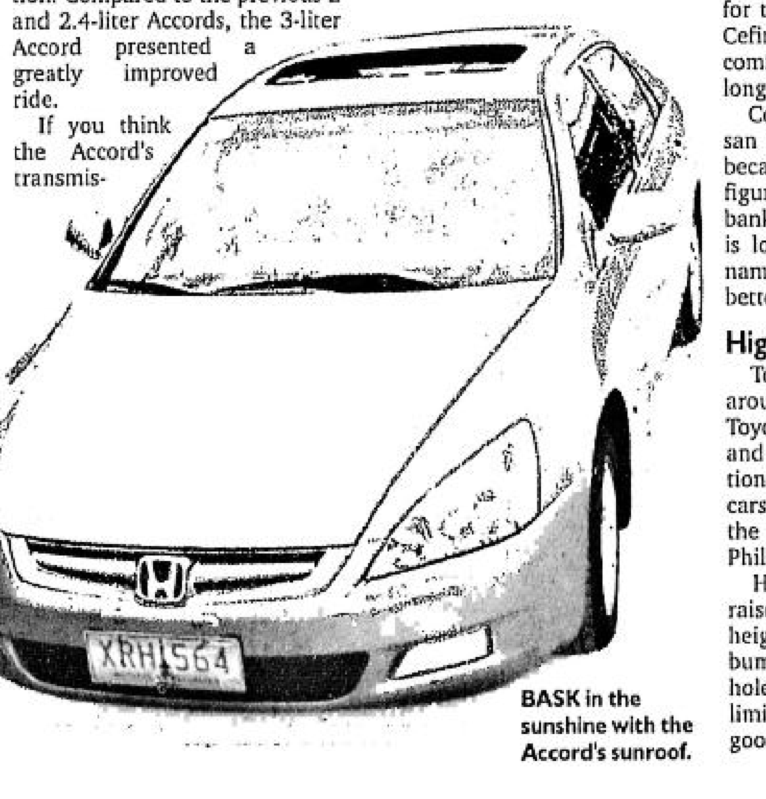
And on a private track (read, not a public place) we drove the Accord in third gear at 280 kph, loaded with four people. This is a mean roller coaster.

Like a jet

Despite the fact that there were four of us inside, we felt comfortable, the engine sounded like an F16 on a high-pitched whine for takeoff with nary a hint of vibration. Compared to the previous 2 and 2.4-liter Accords, the 3-liter Accord presented a greatly improved ride.

If you think the Accord's transmission is already superb, wait till you drive the Camry. From the sound of the engine, to the pull, you won't really feel the Camry shift its power unless you look at the tachometer. Just for that, the Camry ride is solid.

The longer the wheelbase, the more comfortable the ride should be. And since the Cefiro has the longest wheelbase among the three, we expected it to give us the ultimate in ride comfort.



BASK in the sunshine with the Accord's sunroof.

[illegible]

Fuel supply system Programmed Fuel Injection
Type VTEC V6, 24 Valve
Engine displacement 2,997cc
Max power 240 ps/6,250rpm
Max Torque29.3 kg-m/5,000 rpm
Transmission type 5-speed AT
Dimensions
Length 4,831mm
Width 1,821mm
Height 1,455mm
Safety
Traction Control System
Anti-lock brake system with Electronic Brake force and brake assist

As Nissan engineers pointed out from the onset, the Cefiro was given a long wheelbase—as long or nearly as long as the LL class vehicles (like the Mercedes S Class). This assured a more stable and comfortable ride, especially at high speeds.

Insofar as performance is concerned, the Cefiro engine had no problems matching up with Camry and Accord. But we had just one reservation, and it lay under the body the multilink beam (MLB) system. Does it match the independent suspension of its competitors? Nissan engineers insist that MLB is one of the best suspension systems for front-wheel-drive cars. They stress the MLB keeps the rear wheels well planted on the ground during hard cornering, and even at straight-line acceleration.

Whatever MLB's merits may do for the Cefiro, we still think the Cefiro ride is truly made more comfortable mainly because of its longer wheelbase.

Considering all that, the Nissan Cefiro engine holds its own because of its V6 quad cam configuration (4-camshafts, two per bank). And since the Cefiro body is low slung and more aerodynamic, it cuts through the wind better.

High clearance

Toyota thinks the other way around in this aspect. Notice that Toyota cars are unusually high, and the new Camry is no exception. Toyota engineers think their cars ought to be high because of the quality of the roads in the Philippines.

However, some fears are also raised. If you raise the vehicle's height and encounter speed bumps and particularly nasty potholes, you might be pushing the limits of the cylinder, which is not good.

Toyota engineers have given the assurance, however, that their shock absorbers, regardless of the car's height, are self-adjusting. Toyota engineer Allen Rufo said that if you stretch the shock absorber to the limit, it would still function the same way as when you compress it. As long as there's space to move, the shock absorber should not be affected by the car's height.

Power-assisted sunshade

Take note of the Camry's power-assisted sunshade for the ultimate lazy passenger. Push the button and the sunshade goes up or down. The Camry audio system is fantastic, with Fujitsu-Ten 2 DIN/In-dash 6-CD changer/MP3 player. In-dash means you don't need to go all the way back to the trunk to change CDs. The same goes with the Accord's 6 CD in-dash stereo. The Camry's tri-color optitron in the speedometer is eye-candy.

In the Cefiro, however, you do have to open your trunk to load your CDs. But it's worth the effort, with seven speakers (6+ subwoofer) and the 12-disc magazine.

Verdict

Birds of the same feather still flock together, but with some subtle differences that can spell big in the long run. The Camry spells luxury and comfort—the feeling of floating like butterflies at high speeds.

The Accord takes on curves and circuitous routes like an expert Wushu martial artist—fluid, dexterous, and assured, or imagine Venus Williams in stunning evening wear, but still wearing sneakers. The Cefiro crouches low and cuts the wind better than a hot knife through butter. The image is there for you to choose. It comes at a price, though (Camry goes for P1.680 million, Accord for P1.6 million and Cefiro, P1.45 million). But who cares if you're up against the flow?

Vehicle show ends Sunday

From page C1

roof, the most wildly modified sport trucks, SUVs, pickups, racing cars and exotic bikes in the country. This year, more than 70 well-prepared sport trucks, SUVs, custom cars and motorbikes will be on hand to compete for class honors and ultimately, for the much-coveted "Best of Show" award.

The open class competition for motorcycles will have as entries the 2004 Ducati 999R, 2001 Ducati Monster 900, 2002 Ducati 998S Bostrom, 2002 Suzuki GSX 1300R Hayabusa, 1977 Colin Lane Racer Bike and a 1979 Bob Jackson Tandem Bike.

On display are mountain bikes, touring bikes, velodrome bikes and triathlon bikes from Trek, Cannondale, Shimano, Colnago, Seven and Corima. The Manila Sport Car Club also is displaying a special bicycle donated by BMW, which was used by the security marshals during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The bike can be folded for easy storage and has many features that are innovative even today.

Another much-awaited event highlight is the search for Ms Sport Truck Show, Ms Custom Car Show and for the first time, Ms Bike Show. The search is open to all promotional girls employed by the different corporate exhibitors for the event.

The show is presented by Caltex Delo with Ambi Pur as gold sponsors and Top Gear magazine as major sponsor.

Minor sponsors are EXO Armoring, Sunrise Holidays Concepts, 105.1 Crossover, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.9, 103.5 K-lite, Jam 88.3, Infodyne, www.yehey.com, Motorcycle Philippines, Manila Bulletin, Business World, Today, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Buy & Sell, Vantage Consulting & Solutions Inc., Sky Star, Samsung, Taytan Int'l Corp. and Citibank.

Hybrid cars, hopefully

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DO you want a car that averages 25.4 km per liter of gasoline in city driving? Then hope, wish and pray that Toyota will bring to our shores the Prius, the hybrid car that combines a gasoline engine with an electric motor to get twice the fuel mileage of a conventional car but produces less emissions. With the price of oil rising to record levels, sales of the "clean and green" Prius surged by 153 percent in the United States in the first half of 2004 and by a whopping 874 percent in Europe. In America, the Prius is so much in demand that there is a six-month waiting period and price-gouging by dealers—as much as US$5,000 over the sticker price—has become rampant.

There is one Prius in the Philippines, but it is an old model that was donated to President Macapagal-Arroyo by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. in 2002 and is sometimes used by the secretary of energy for the government's fuel conservation campaign. Puny, underpowered, overpriced and unattractive, the first generation Prius did not sell.

Instant hit

But late last year, Toyota unveiled the totally redesigned, snazzier, roomier, more fuel-efficient and 50 percent more powerful second generation Prius. It was an instant hit and is now a status symbol. Voted Car of the Year by Motor Trend, the 2004 Prius is loaded with creature comforts and gadgets, including a superb audio system and a dazzling instrument panel that shows real-time gas mileage and when the car is running on gas or electricity or recharging its battery.

Already, auto industry analysts are predicting that because of the 2004 Prius, within five years every car model made will have a hybrid version. Toyota, the acknowledged leader, will introduce a hybrid Highlander SUV next year while its luxury affiliate, Lexus, is scheduling a hybrid RX 400h SUV (the Highlander is actually an econo version of the Lexus RX330.) By 2006, a hybrid Camry will be available in the United States.

The first US car manufacturer to jump on the hybrid bandwagon was Ford, which launched a hybrid version of the Escape, its compact SUV, this month using Toyota's hybrid technology under license. Before the launch, Ford estimated that its front-wheel-drive 4-cyl. Escape hybrid would get 14-17 km per liter in city driving compared with 8.4 km per liter in a 2005 V6 Escape. By 2007, Ford will be producing three hybrid vehicles.

Hybrid plans

With its hybrid Civic and Insight compact cars, Honda is the only other car manufacturer mass-producing gasoline-electric cars at present. Honda plans to introduce a hybrid Accord sedan, the first i-VTEC hybrid car, in the United States this year on the premise that the variable cylinder management technology will make hybrid systems suitable for bigger vehicles. Other carmakers with hybrid plans are Nissan, which is coming up with an Altima sedan incorporating Toyota's hybrid system; Dodge, which will produce a diesel-electric pickup; and General Motors with hybrid versions of the GMC Sierra and the Chevy Silverado. Even the Hummer H2 will have a hybrid variant.

Perhaps noting these hybrid plans, an analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston Japan predicted recently that the US$2.5 billion hybrid vehicle market will triple by 2006. Meanwhile, the Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental research and advocacy group in Cambridge, Massachusetts, projected that by 2015, 60 percent of the vehicles sold in the United States would have to be hybrid to stop the growth of automotive global-warming emissions beyond levels expected at the end of this decade.

High price

That may be wistful thinking. Hybrid vehicles cannot go mainstream as long as their prices remain higher than conventional cars. A Prius costs about $3,000 to $4,000 more than a comparable nonhybrid car like the Toyota Corolla because of its additional components. Congress would have to pass tax credits as high as $4,000 for hybrid buyers to defray the price difference.

Then there is the high development cost of hybrid technology. Although Toyota claims it makes money on its hybrid vehicles, analysts estimate that Japan's largest car manufacturer was losing $3,000 on each car when the Prius was launched in the United States in 2000 and that Toyota would need the next five years to break even. This is partly why following its deals with Ford and Nissan, Toyota is offering to license its hybrid system to other carmakers.

Boosted

Production volume will have to be boosted to lower costs for makers of hybrid components. Those key gasoline-electric hybrid components, however, are not produced in the United States, thus Toyota has to manufacture the Prius in Japan for the US market. Toyota has increased the Prius' production volume from 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles a month to meet the strong demand in the United States.

In 2003, Toyota sold 53,000 hybrid vehicles, less than one percent of its global sales of 6.07 million vehicles. But that was before the all-new Prius came out. Although J.D. Power & Associates, the consulting firm, forecasts hybrid growth at just 3 percent of the US market for the near future, Toyota aims to produce 300,000 hybrid vehicles a year by mid-decade.

And not for the North American and European markets only, we hope. Last week, Toyota signed a deal with its partner, China FAW Group Corp., for the knock-down assembly and sale of Prius cars in China. Perhaps some of these wonderful cars will be coming our way...

(Sources: The AWSJ, The New York Times, Associated Press, Bloomberg News and Newsweek)

* * *

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* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

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Those. . .

From page C4

kph, should I give way to a much faster vehicle knowing that I am traveling at the correct legal speed?

"If I refuse, what action can I take if the vehicle behind me keeps on tailgating and putting me and my passengers in danger?"

Good point there, Roger.

To your first question, I suggest that you give way, even if you are traveling at the correct legal speed. We call that courtesy to others, even if the recipient of your good heart isn't a law-abiding citizen. In fact, that makes you a better person than him. And, yes, he'll overtake you anyway as he will do it from the right lane—which could pose more danger to both of you than when you choose to give way.

As to the second question, the action you can take is stop and report the matter to a patrol car. However, by the time you flag down a patrol car, the culprit might have sped away beyond reach.

So, we go back to the first option. Better to give way and make yourself assured, more or less, of a trouble-free ride home. Rabble-rousers abound in this world. And, yes, as always, it is better to give than to receive.

Thank you for writing, Roger.

* * *

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Those overloaded vehicles at NLEX; new Trooper

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I CANNOT stop admiring Isuzu. Why, because for one, it does not stop producing a Trooper after Trooper, each model coming up with features of tremendous quality. From the day it unveiled its first Trooper, IPC had gotten many SUV enthusiasts smitten by it almost in an instant. Just recently, it unfurled its latest Trooper. It came after launching its highly successful "Isuzu Truck Attack" in August.

Said Yoshifumi Komura, just recently installed president of the Isuzu Philippines Corp., during the Trooper launch: "I can't believe that it has been five months since I arrived here to take over the helm of IPC. As we launch tonight the 2005 Trooper, we take the occasion to express our gratitude to all of Isuzu's supporters through the years. Without you, we would not have achieved our lofty standing in the industry right now."

I have always been a fan of Isuzu, simply because it is the best diesel-powered vehicle not only in the country but also in the world.

According to Myrna & Tim, and even Art and Ronald, "Just one look at the 2005 Isuzu Trooper and it will instantly convince you that it's the ultimate sport-ute in the market. It is even sportier, without sacrificing its classic elegance."

Its features have been augmented with designs that have become very masculine, like the chrome-accented radiator grille and a front bumper chin spoiler.

The new Trooper is equipped with a new entertainment package—a JVC DVD head unit that guarantees hours of pleasure on the road. This unit features a variable-color graphic display with an MP3 for a more enjoyable listening and viewing experience.

The 2005 Isuzu Trooper 4x2, powered by the award-winning 3.0-liter, 16-valve, DOHC turbocharged 4JXI-TC engine mated to a 4-speed automatic transmission, is priced at P1,995,000. It is now available at all Isuzu dealerships nationwide, in five colors—alpine white, satin silver, foxfire red, dragon green and ebony black.

I have several friends who, up to now, still ooze with praise for their Troopers.

I wouldn't be surprised if one of them, if not all of them, would suddenly decide to upgrade their current Troopers and buy the latest.

* * *

One way to beat the doctor is not being overweight. Many of my friends play golf or go to the gym regularly to trim "needless fat."

But then, is there a cure for an "overweight (overloaded) truck"?

I ask that in lieu of many overloaded trucks using the North Luzon Expressway every now and then. I know. I've been going back to my home province of Pangasinan regularly the past months and what bothers me is the wanton use of the NLEX by overloaded trucks. What I see very often are trucks used for quarrying. Most of the time, they form a line so long it is almost impossible for you to overtake all of them. They are usually overflowing with either sand and gravel material, or rocks.

* * *

Statistics show that an average of nine accidents in a day in the NLE is due to overloaded trucks and trailers. Terrible.

But here's good news. The days of overloaded trucks at NLEX are over. The anti-overloading law is now being enforced with resolve.

Equipped with high-tech weigh scales from the Manila North Tollways Corp., the PNCC is now using them in spotting overloaded vehicles using the vastly improved NLEX.

Guesswork is eliminated, thanks to the new portable weigh scales. The scales check the amount of load of each vehicle/truck with the aid of a monitor and a digital printout. If the load exceeds the 13,500 kg. maximum allowable gross vehicle weight (GVW) per axle, that's overloading. That's science at work for you!

Let's hope the PNCC will wage the anti-overloading drive without exception. The success of this campaign depends on PNCC's determination and consistency.

* * *

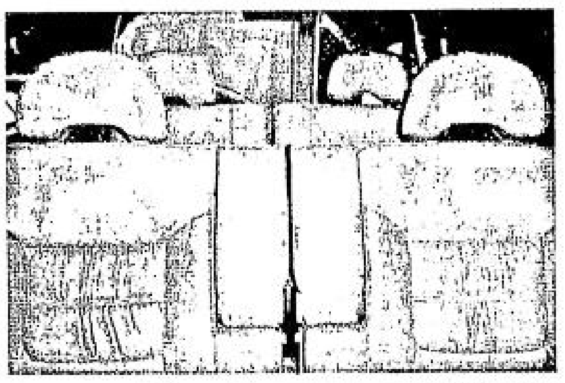
Here's a letter from Roger Ramos.

"Dear Al,

"I read your column about giving way to a much faster vehicle trying to overtake a slow-moving vehicle sticking it out at the fast lane of the NLEX.

"We know there's a speed limit at NLEX, which is 100 kph. I am at the fast lane (left lane) traveling at 100

THOSE/ C3



NISSAN PATROL goes JDM, now seats seven

The NISSAN PATROL has pushed the bigger-is-better interior look for full-sized luxury sport utility vehicles (SUVs) further.

UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORPORATION, exclusive distributor of NISSAN light commercial vehicles (LCVs), announced recently that from September 1-30, buyers of the NISSAN PATROL get a new set of third row seats FREE. These seats immediately convert forward occupancy of UMC's premium flagship product into a seven-seater SUV. This new seating configuration comes especially handy for the chief executive officer (CEO), upper management person or a chairman of a company's board of trustees board that use the PATROL as a rolling home for his or her loved ones during long trips.

Movers and shakers in Philippine business will also appreciate these third row seats, which also can be used as additional seating for out-of-town jaunts or as placement for one's laptop and briefcase after a tiring day from work. The seats can also be turned into places for back occupancy (via folding of the original second row seats) for the tall and lithe bourgeoisie.

These third row seats are located in front of the rearmost doors and the spare tire platform area. Furthermore, those who prefer hauling cargo instead of passengers at the PATROL's rearmost area will enjoy the fact that the third row seats are collapsible to swallow large parapahernalia.

These collapsible seats replace the laterally positioned third row seats and convey a true JDM (Japanese domestic market) feel within the PATROL's expansive interior. JDM SUV fanatics are known for their attention to detail, especially with the ergonomics and the interior of certain vehicles. With the PATROL, JDM SUV fans are sure to love the new seats, for in the Land of the Rising Sun the PATROL's third row seats face forward instead of sideways.

For additional convenience, the seats can be folded in a 60/40 manner to accommodate bulky cargo and can be outfitted to match the same seatcover wrapping - leather and moquette fabric - as the first and second row seats.

This offer is in addition to UMC's newest financing scheme for the PATROL, FRONTIER and URVAN ESCAPADE/URVAN SHUTTLE, which gives the buyer two options. For the PATROL, one can opt for a low downpayment of Php 368,000-Php 405,000.00. Or one may choose the second option of low monthly plans for the PATROL, all based on a 50% downpayment, with 60 months to pay for the remaining balance. Low monthly schemes go from Php 25,008.00 up to Php 27,231.00.

The NISSAN PATROL is UMC's premium product, appealing to the topflight executive or company president who wants performance with panache, substance with style. The addition of new forward-facing third row seats gives the PATROL an interior that will surely help the big cannons in the Philippine corporate setting at work and at play.

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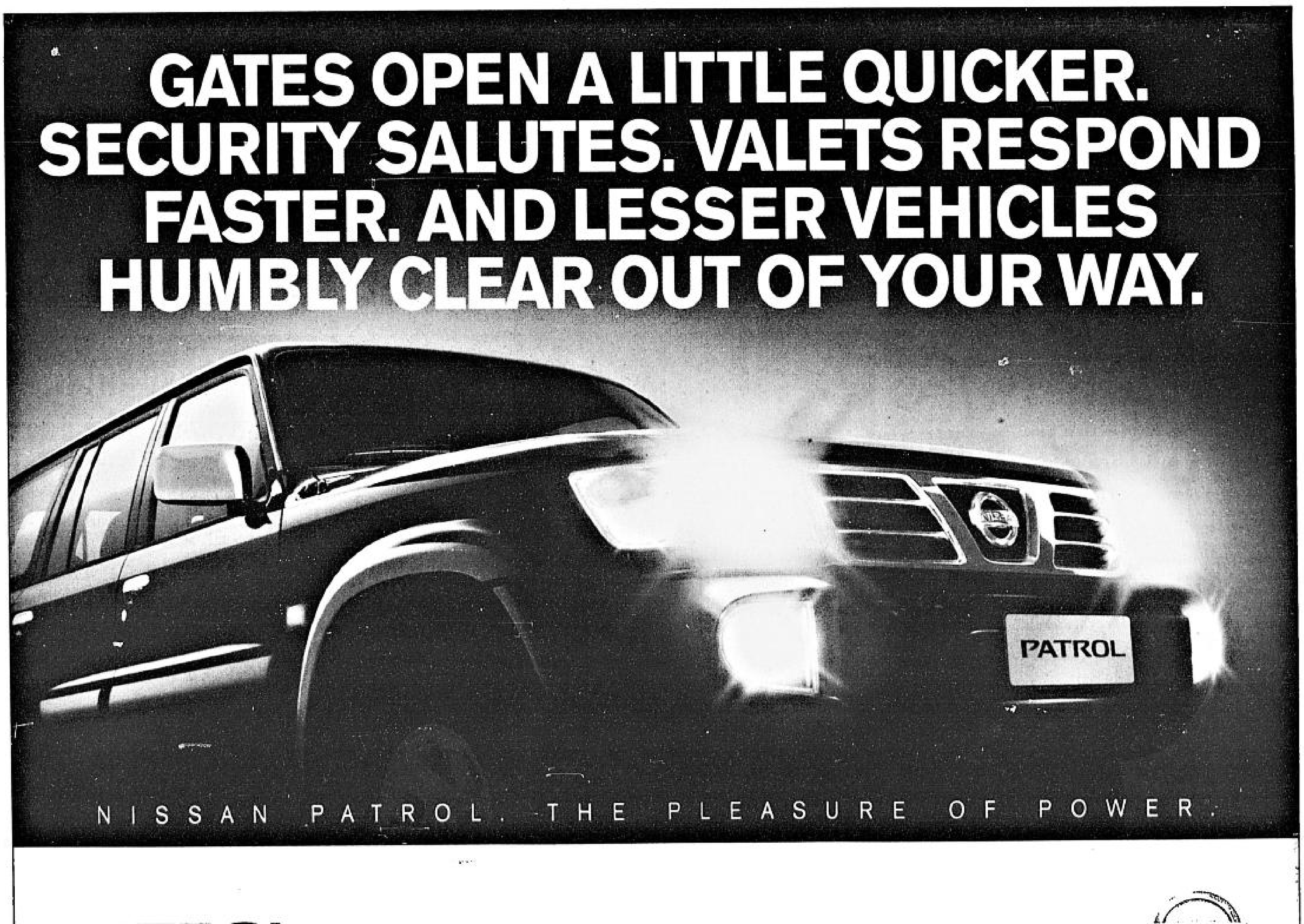

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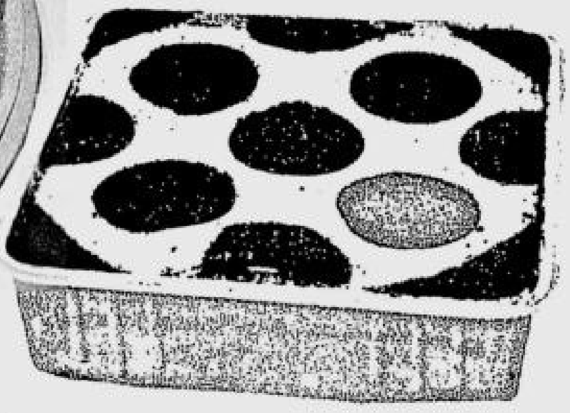
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

DOUBLE Chocolate Mousse, layers of chocolate cake and dark and white chocolate mousse wrapped in a decorated chocolate band



TIRAMISU, layers of Kahlua and espresso-soaked lady fingers with a light and creamy cheese filling

Classic Confections unveils its sinful collection of pastries and desserts

Afternoon delights

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

FOR BABA Ibazeta, there's no better way to celebrate her fifth year in the cake business than to hold a coffee and tea party for Classic Confections' loyal patrons at the Pacific Plaza Towers in Fort Bonifacio.

Classic Confections is a made-to-order cake and confectionery business set up in 1999 by Ibazeta and her bestfriend, Kat Malvar-Rodrigo. The shop also supplies desserts to several reputable cafés and restaurants in Metro Manila.

The business grew from the friends' shared passion for creating delectable, innovative and quality desserts. Ibazeta and Rodrigo started by baking cakes in their respective kitchens at home. Now, Classic Confections has a spacious and busy kitchen in Kapitolyo, Pasig.

Ibazeta has a degree from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, while Rodrigo graduated from the Center of Culinary Arts in Manila.

After Ibazeta's return from the United States, she and Rodrigo joined a Christmas bazaar where they showcased their desserts, including the famed Banana Cream Pie.(a creamy vanilla custard on a crunchy cashew nut crust topped with caramelized bananas and whipped cream), Tiramisu and cheesecakes.

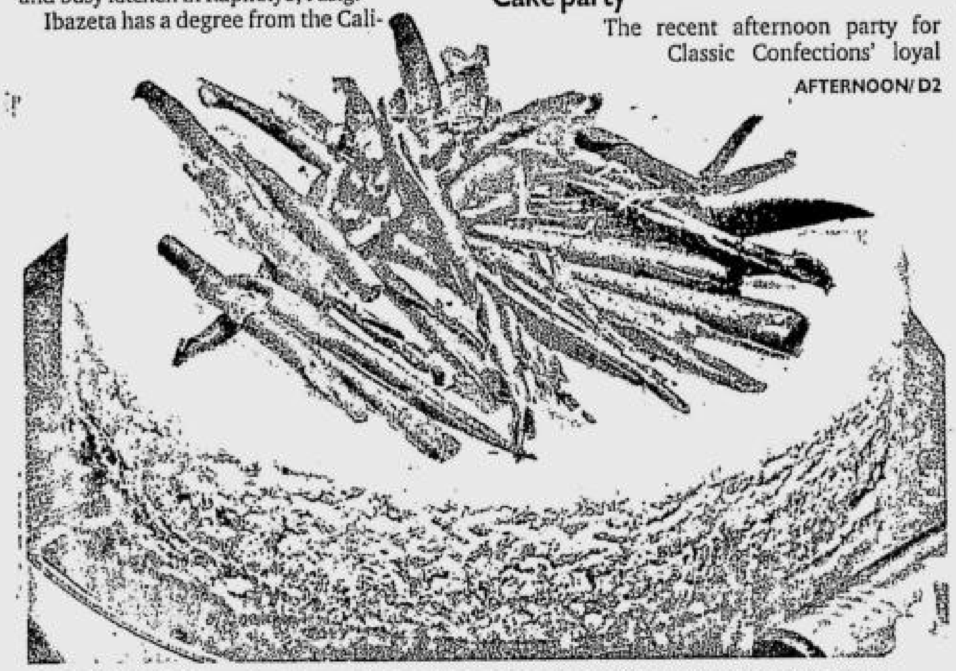
"We were just testing the water if we could really make a business from baking," recalls Ibazeta. Through word of mouth, demand for their desserts grew and orders poured in. "We got inspired and decided to do this full-time."

One of their specialties, Almond Roca candy bar (a luscious buttery almond and chocolate cluster), was once used by an ice cream company to make a new flavor. "It was like a limited edition for the ice cream company," Ibazeta proudly says.

Cake party

The recent afternoon party for Classic Confections' loyal

AFTERNOON/ D2



CHEESECAKE Obsession, layers of chocolate, coffee and vanilla cheesecakes baked on a Graham cracker crust and topped with chocolate cigarettes

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (PACCD)
"Global Dermatology 2004"

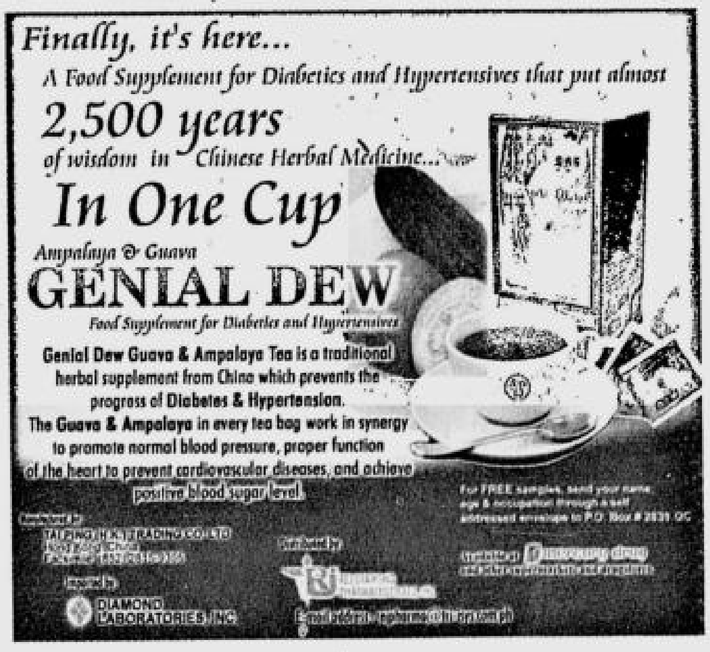
The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD), an organization of dermatologists will hold its 1st annual convention on October 1, 2, and 3, 2004 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The theme of the convention is "Global Dermatology 2004."

Foreign and local speakers were invited to present and discuss the latest in clinical and cosmetic dermatology. Prominent dermatologists and plastic surgeons will participate to enlighten professionals of recent developments and techniques in the practice.

PACCD is a strong, united group of dedicated doctors, all members of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), with the mission of broadening the knowledge and skills in dermatology, promoting ethical and moral standards in the practice of the profession and fostering camaraderie among fellow dermatologists. Its core values are professionalism, knowledge, unity, and love.

The PACCD is open for application of new members who are highly qualified and properly trained in dermatology with high ethical practice and good character. Good moral character is highly emphasized too, to keep up with standards of Christian values like honesty, respect, love, value of sharing knowledge and building up one another. Character and skills that God gave us are the only qualities doctors and other professions will bring to heaven and not your wealth and professional competence.

All professionals, doctors, and other specialists are invited to register early. For further inquiries call our Telefax: (02) 714-4284, and look for Carina.



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A salmon recipe for a brand-new wife

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

BAGONG *kasal po ako,* and I really love fish. *May* easy recipe *po ba kayo* for salmon?

Must be true love... Salmon is served on the first year, *lapu-lapu* on the second, *galunggong* on the third! (Just kidding!) Congratulations and all the best!

Salmon Teriyaki

5 tbsp light soy sauce (available in supermarkets and Chinese groceries)

1 tsp ginger, grated

3 tbsp honey or 2 tbsp sugar—adjust to taste

2 tbsp mirin or saké (supermarket or Japanese store—Sakura, Pasay Road, Makati)

2 tbsp vinegar

2 garlic cloves, pounded to a paste

4 pcs salmon fillets or steak cuts—substitute with chicken, tuna, *gindara*, etc...

sesame seeds, toasted on a dry pan, for garnish

Combine ingredients in a bowl and marinate salmon for about 10-20 minutes. (For chicken, at least four hours or overnight.) Grill or bake salmon. Bring marinade to a boil, and brush the salmon with it while grilling. Sprinkle with toasted sesame seeds. Serve immediately.

Marinating 101

What are the rules for marinating?

TESS

Good question. There are two schools of thought and much disagreement on how long a viand should be marinated. I'm 50-50 here. I believe that good meat cuts such as steaks or fish should not be marinated for long periods but seasoned just before cooking. Chicken I marinate, though not all the time. In all things, do what is necessary to achieve the desired results.

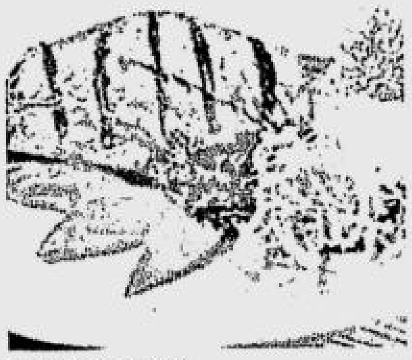
- Always marinate in the refrigerator!
- Put the food to be marinated in a dish, then cover with marinade. What works best for me, especially if I'm not working on large quantities, is to put them inside Glad zipper bags then pour the marinade over—less messy. Remember to squeeze out all the trapped air before sealing.
- Do not use copper or aluminum bowls when marinating, especially if the marinade contains acid. This will significantly alter the flavor of your dish, as well as cause discoloration of both food and bowl.

As for marinating time, use it only as a guideline. Sound judgment should be your best ally.

- Longer is not necessarily better. Some types of food will not absorb well the marinade, so leaving them to marinate longer may only make them tougher. Time should depend on what you are marinating and the ingredients of the marinade.
- Most fish and seafood are delicate and porous and so should be kept for only 10-20 minutes.
- Skinless chicken can be marinated for 2-4 hours.
- Chicken with skin or pork may be kept for four hours or overnight. Wings are basically flavored after four.
- Most tender cuts of meat can be marinated for 2-6 hours. Tougher cuts of meat should marinate longer, usually overnight.
- Puncturing thick cuts of meat (beef, lamb and pork for roasting) will not make the marinade penetrate the interior, as old wives' tale would want us to believe. In fact, doing so will cause the juices of the meat to flow, leaving it dry. With larger cuts, be happy with a well flavored surface.
- Attention Ilokanos! Do not reuse the marinade. If you want to baste with your marinade, set some aside in a separate container before marinating your food. If you wish to serve the marinade as a sauce, first bring it to a boil.

Basic ratio: 1 c for every ¼ - ½ kg of meat.

- Remember to flip/shake the bag every so often to ensure even distribution of marinade.



SALMON teriyaki

A fine kettle of fish

I always end up buying bad fish and seafood. How will I know if the fish I'm buying is fresh? Do you have a *suki*?

CALOY

Fish:

- Skin should be shiny and the color bright.
- Scales should be firmly attached and shiny.
- Moist, bright blood-red gills
- Eyes should be clear and not sunken.
- Flesh is firm, bouncing back when touched.
- Fresh fish doesn't smell.

Mussels: Shells should be tightly closed, brightly colored, moist and unbroken.

Clams: Hard-shelled clams should have tightly shut shells. When cooked, they should open up. Clams that remain closed after cooking should be discarded.

Crabs: Buy them alive and choose the active ones. They should be heavy and the shells brightly colored and moist, not dry or flaky. Don't get those with white patches.

Oysters: Shells should be tightly closed and unbroken. Shucked oysters sold in bags should be sold in their liquor/liquid, which should be clear, not cloudy or white.

Scallops: Normally sold shucked as they hardly keep well out of water. They should be off-white or pale yellow. Smell them if you must. Smell is always a great indicator. If you see them in their shells, buy them for they are sure to be fresh. They are available either as bay scallops (the small variety) or the deep sea kind, which grows up to two inches in diameter.

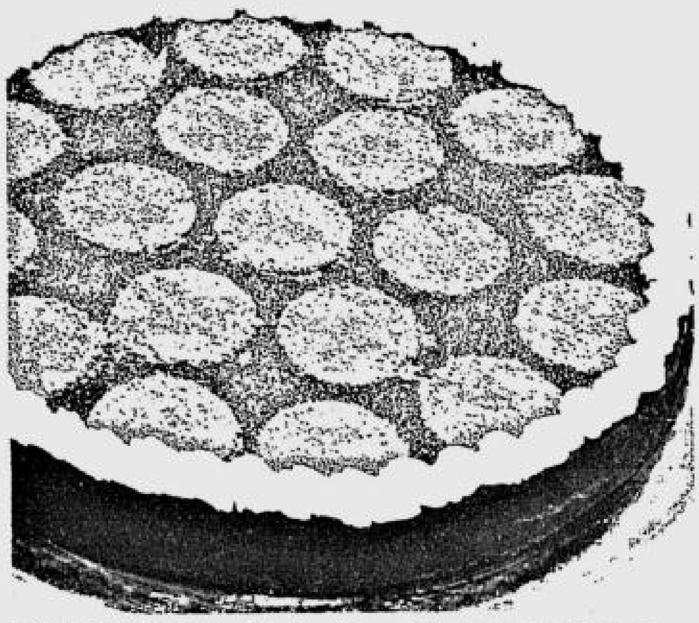
Shrimp: Shell should be shiny and firm, attached tightly to the body. Spots on the shell means the shrimps are past, their prime.

Squid: Look for firm flesh. Meat should be unblemished and off-white in color. If unpeeled, skin should be purplish and firmly attached. Tentacles should not be broken and limp.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

Afternoon delights

From page D1



CHOCOLATE Orbit, a rich chocolate pudding topped with cocoa powder and edged with fresh whipped cream

clients also became an opportunity for Ibazeta to showcase the company's current pastry menu and to introduce its latest dessert collections.

"Since we don't have a place where we could present our latest concoctions, we thought of using the occasion to introduce them to the taste of our newest desserts," Ibazeta says. The partners set up a buffet table with yummy cakes, cookies and candy bars and Starbucks coffees and teas.

The cakes included the chocolate hypnotizers such as French Chocolate Decadence, a slow-bake flour-less chocolate log beautifully topped with dark chocolate curls and powdered sugar (P350); Double Chocolate Mousse, an elegant dessert with layers of moist chocolate cake and dark-and-white chocolate mousse wrapped in a decorated chocolate band (P675); Nono's Chocolate Oblivion, a chocolate dessert with layers of chocolate cake and ganache, textured with a walnut praline and dusted with cocoa powder (P650); Chocolate Orbit, a rich chocolate pudding topped with cocoa powder and edged with whipped cream (P450).

Other cakes presented were Mango Cheesecake, a refreshing no-bake mango-flavored cheesecake topped with silky fresh mangoes (P690); Mango Torte, cashew-meringue crust filled with vanilla custard and fresh mangoes topped with whipped cream (P450); Cheesecake Obsession, the ultimate cheesecake indulgence consisting of layers of chocolate, coffee and vanilla cheesecakes baked on a Graham cracker crust and topped with chocolate cigarettes (P890) and Mocha Sans Rival, four layers of cashew nut meringue filled and iced with mocha buttercream (P550).

Guests also enjoyed Russian Tea Cookies, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Mocha Walnut Cookies, Strawberry Cheesecake Bars, Calamansi Bars and Caramel Walnut Chip Brownies.

Call Classic Confections at 7462773 and 0917-5245892.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

BABA Ibazeta celebrates her fifth year in the cake business.

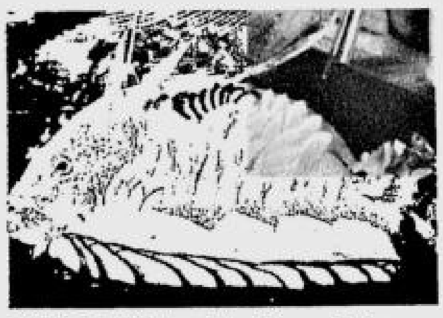
Spanish regional cooking in October

DINING OUT

ALBA Restaurante Español presents Regional Food Festival, a month-long event highlighting dishes from four major Spanish regions: Castellano, Vasco Navarro, Galicia y Asturias and Mediterraneo. The Castellano regional buffet Oct. 1-10 will feature Callos a la Madrileña, Cochinillo Segoveano (baked suckling pig), Cocido Madrileña, among others. Basque cooking on Oct. 11-17, will have Bacalao taking center stage, along with salmon, *vaca* (beef) and vegetable dishes from the Vasco Navarro region. World-renowned Fabada Asturiana, Lengua Estofada a la Orense, Pollo a la Asturiana and more stews and *pescado* (fish) dishes from Galicia y Asturias will be offered Oct. 18-24. Dishes like Canalones Catalana, Menestra de Verduras Murciana, Pato a la Sevillana and tripe dishes from the region Mediterraneo Oct. 25-31. Alba's Spanish regional lunch buffet is available Monday-Saturday in all branches for only P395+ per person. Dinner buffet is available Saturday-Sunday at Alba Makati and Thursday-Sunday at Alba Tomas Morato and Eastwood Libis branches for only P450+ per person. Call 8966950/51 and 8904372 (Bel-Air, Makati); 9251912, 9287129 and 4117050 (Tomas Morato); and 6312216 to 17 and 4379335 (Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City).

DADS-Kamayan-Saisaki offers the Ultimate Buffet on Padre Faura, Manila. The buffet has lechon de leche, sushi, sashimi, ebi tempura, sukiyaki, turkey, ham, paella, roast beef and pasta. Kamayan buffet features "Kusina Eksotika," Filipino dishes; Saisaki, "Niku: Feast of the Samurais Festival," meal dishes; and Dads, "Amerigo Buffet Festival," American/Mex dishes. Call 5281723 to 24.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Café Coquilla features the Pagayaya Food Festival until Oct. 2. The festival offers Pork and Liver with red/green bell peppers and peas, Bamboo Shoots mixed with spices, Sauteéd Native Escargot, Carabeef Bulalo, Steamed King Crabs and native desserts. Call 5261212.



SEAFOOD Night at Edsa Shangri-La's Garden Café

FISHING Village Restaurant offers Seafood Rice, Squid with Green and Red Pepper, Steamed Clams with Garlic, Crab Chili Sauce and Taiwan Fish Head. The restaurant is located along Roxas Boulevard corner Padre Faura, Manila. Call 5368838/5361916.

EDSA Shangri-La Manila's Garden Café features Seafood Night every Friday. It offers a grill station with imported lobsters, tuna and blue marlin, Asian and Continental seafood specialties like Fish and Chips, Panfried Sea Perch Picatta, Chili Crabs, Seafood Char Kway Teow, fresh oysters, Grilled Squid stuffed with tomatoes and Sauteéd Buttered Prawns. Call 6347373/6338888.

PUERTO del Sol Beach Resort and Hotel Club's Café del Sol offers Prawn Salad in Mango, Ceviche Oriental, Spanish Mackerel, Kare-kare, Beef Kebab and Maiz con Hielo. The resort and hotel club is in Brgy. Ilog Malino, Bolinao, Pangasinan. Call 6338246/6338419/6352517.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's Lobby Café presents Corned Beef Pandesal, Cheese Roll, Choco Chips Moist Cake, Ensaymada, Fruit Danish, Banana Bread, Chicken and Tuna Turnover, Sausage Roll, Cheesecake and Shortcake. Call 6387777.

CHEF ED'S Cosmopolitan restaurant holds the Spanish Food Festival Oct. 1-12. To be featured are Cocido Madrileños, Pimientos Rellenos con Carne Picada Pote Gallego, Arroz al Estilo de Pamplona, Jamon Serrano, Calamares Rellenos en su Tinta, Tortilla de Chorizo and Bacalao al Bilbiana. Chef Ed's is at 139 De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati.

The Malolos dinner

By Ambeth R. Ocampo

MOST Filipino historians only know of the Malolos Menu from a black and white reproduction in Harpers History of the War in the Philippines (1900). Few have actually seen the original Malolos Menu because it is so rare there are less than three known copies in the entire universe.

For this reason, historians and curious foodies are content with the list of what our Founding Fathers ate on Sept. 29, 1898 (*See our article last week*). We do not know how many copies of the Malolos Banquet Menu were printed for the 1898 *fiesta nacional* but we can presume that all VIP guests got one. At the very least, each table had a menu to help diners follow the sequence of the multi-course meal.

It is understandable to keep and preserve the original manuscripts of: the Declaration of Independence, the *Ultimo Adios*, the Constitution, or the Bonifacio Trial, but nobody will bother with a menu. Thus, few have survived.

Historical document

While the Malolos Menu may be considered ephemeral, it remains a historical document that should be preserved in a library or museum.

A Malolos Menu is preserved in the Museo de Cagayan de Oro in Xavier University. It is in the form we already know though and we were thrilled to see it in color for the first time. We almost ignored it if not for the food listed that did not match the menu reproduced in Harper's. For example, this menu had soup and a pigeon dish.

After reading the menu twice, I noticed that the Malolos Menu familiar to historians was for *dejeuner* (lunch) while the menu in Xavier University was for dinner! Obviously, the dinner menu was scaled down to save the founding fathers from *bangungot*. Though not as varied as lunch, dinner was, nevertheless, a feast that included: Potage-Consomme de Volaille a la Royale (if this clear soup of chicken stock follows the description in the Larousse Gastronomique it would have been thickened with tapioca and garnished with royale that is prepared from a mixture of clear meat stock variously flavored and thickened with eggs cut up and placed in the soup), Releve-poisson sauce blanc (fish with white sauce which, if this resembles what is served in Filipino fiestas today, is probably cooked fish covered with mayonnaise). Entrées were: Croquettes a la Philippinoise (croquettes are better known in the Philippines under their Spanish name *croquetas*. What stuffing will make this generic dish a la Philippinois, we leave that to the imagination), Saucise de Poulet a la Republique (chicken sausage or maybe galantina?), Boueff Ladre, Pigeons aux Champignons (stewed pigeons garnished with mushrooms), Roti Chapon Dore (a roast capon or castrated oversized fattened young cock glazed with egg and browned in the oven), Salade-saison (fresh green raw salad served with the roast). Legumes (vegetables) were Aubergines farcies (stuffed eggplant better known as *rellenong talong*), Haricots Vertes Sautés (string beans sautéed in butter and probably garnished with parsley in the French tradition but could also be our everyday *guisadong sitaw* hiding under a *sosyal* French name), Entremets-glace Moka Parisienne (Mocha ice cream? Or was it something served on ice? The Starbucks generation know this as iced mocha.).

For dessert they had *fromage* (cheese), fruit, *confitures* (jam or fruit preserves).

The wines followed the same sequence as in the luncheon: Bordeaux, Sauterne, Xeres (Sherry), and Champagne. Liqueurs followed dinner: Green Chartreuse, Cognac and Anisette. And, naturally, the feast ended with coffee or tea.

Ordinary mortals' meal

With both lunch and dinner menus at hand we can now make sense of a review of the *Fiesta Nacional* in the Oct. 2, 1898 issue of El Cometa by a [Spanish?] journalist hiding under the pseudonym Karrakuka. The foods in the printed menus were for the VIPs because Karrakuka reported that ordinary mortals had a different meal consisting of: *tinola*, fish, *agachonas* (snipes), carabao brain, *lengua de carabao, menodillos, tortillas, riñones*, chicken, *croquetas*, ham in gelatin, *capon* with eggs (is that possible or appropriate?), turkey and salad.

Desserts were fruits like Chinese or what we call today Mandarin oranges, mangoes, *bibingka, puto, turron* and *mazapan*. Malolos may be famous for *ensaimada* today but the pastry was conspicuously absent then, as well as signature sweets from San Miguel de Mayumo.

La Republica Filipina, official newspaper of the Malolos Government, said the spacious dining room was well adorned, featuring seals and flags on each *trecho*. Windows had tulle curtains to block harsh sunlight on the main table groaning under the weight of the finest *vajillas*, exquisite sweets, and bottles of various wines.

Lorenzo del Rosario, in charge of the service, prepared tables for 30 guests set with 200 utensils surely borrowed from nearby *ilustrado* households. Emilio Aguinaldo, President of the Malolos Republic, was at the center table with Generals Riego de Dios, Garcia, Torres, Noriel, Gregorio and Pio del Pilar. T.H. Pardo de Tavera and Jose Alejandrino sat across Aguinaldo.

That night, elaborate toasts were offered for: the Republic, the President and the martyrs of the country.

Now that we have the lunch and dinner Malolos Menus, it cannot be long before we find those for breakfast and *merienda*. The menus are an indication of a young nation coming into the world. Nick Joaquin was right to insist that the Malolos menu should be appreciated side by side with the Malolos Constitution.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Dishes from Madrid to Caribbean

THE SCHEDULE of classes at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts follows:

Oct. 1 (Friday), "Fiesta Española" (all new): Lentejas, Zarzuela de Mariscos, Cochinillo, Cocido Madrileño de Lujo, Arroz Española

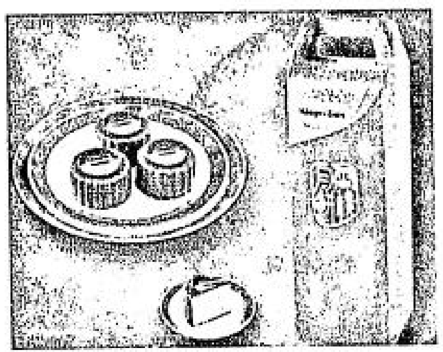
Oct. 2 (Saturday), Cooking with Cheese: Fried Mozzarella, two ways plus sauces (Sticks with Sauces, and with Garlic and Anchovy Sauce), Cheese Soufflé, Beef Carpaccio, French Onion Soup with three cheeses, Goat Cheese Stuffed Chicken with Mushroom Pilaf, Prawn Thermidor, Stuffed Tenderloin Steaks, Fruit and Cheese Platter

Oct. 4 (Monday), "*Tapa, Tocino, Atbp.*—Say Goodbye to All Those Preservatives and Make Your Own" (all new): *Tapa*, three kinds (Rib-eye a la Pobre, Sirloin Sukiyaki, Spicy Sirloin); *Tocino*, three kinds (Chicken and Maple, Pork and Honey, Oriental Pork); *Daing na Bangus* with Herbs, Citrus and Garlic; Delicious *Tinapa* Rice

Oct. 6 (Wednesday), Caribbean Cuisine 101 (all new): Sopa de Marisco, Delicious South American Paella, *Ropa Vieja*, Roast Pork with Guava, *Chorizo* Stuffed Caribbean Chicken, Chicken with Peanut Sauce, Caribbean Mixed Barbecue with Mango Barbecue Sauce, Guava Pastel.

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162 or 0917-8399888.

'Mooncake' ice cream



Häagen-Dazs joins the mid-autumn celebration with its mooncake ice cream flavors.

CELEBRATE Mid-Autumn Festival with Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream Mooncake.

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Promo ends today.

Discover Japanese cooking

LEARN the secrets of cooking authentic Japanese cuisine at "The Art of Japanese Cooking" class, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Oct. 7, San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legazpi corner Eagle streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City.

Presented as part of San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's Best of Asia Cooking Series, the class will be conducted by Tamy Tagaki, a Japanese cooking enthusiast and hobbyist.

A minimal fee of P500 will be charged. Registration is a must. Call 6719876 loc. 402, 404, 405 and 2771.

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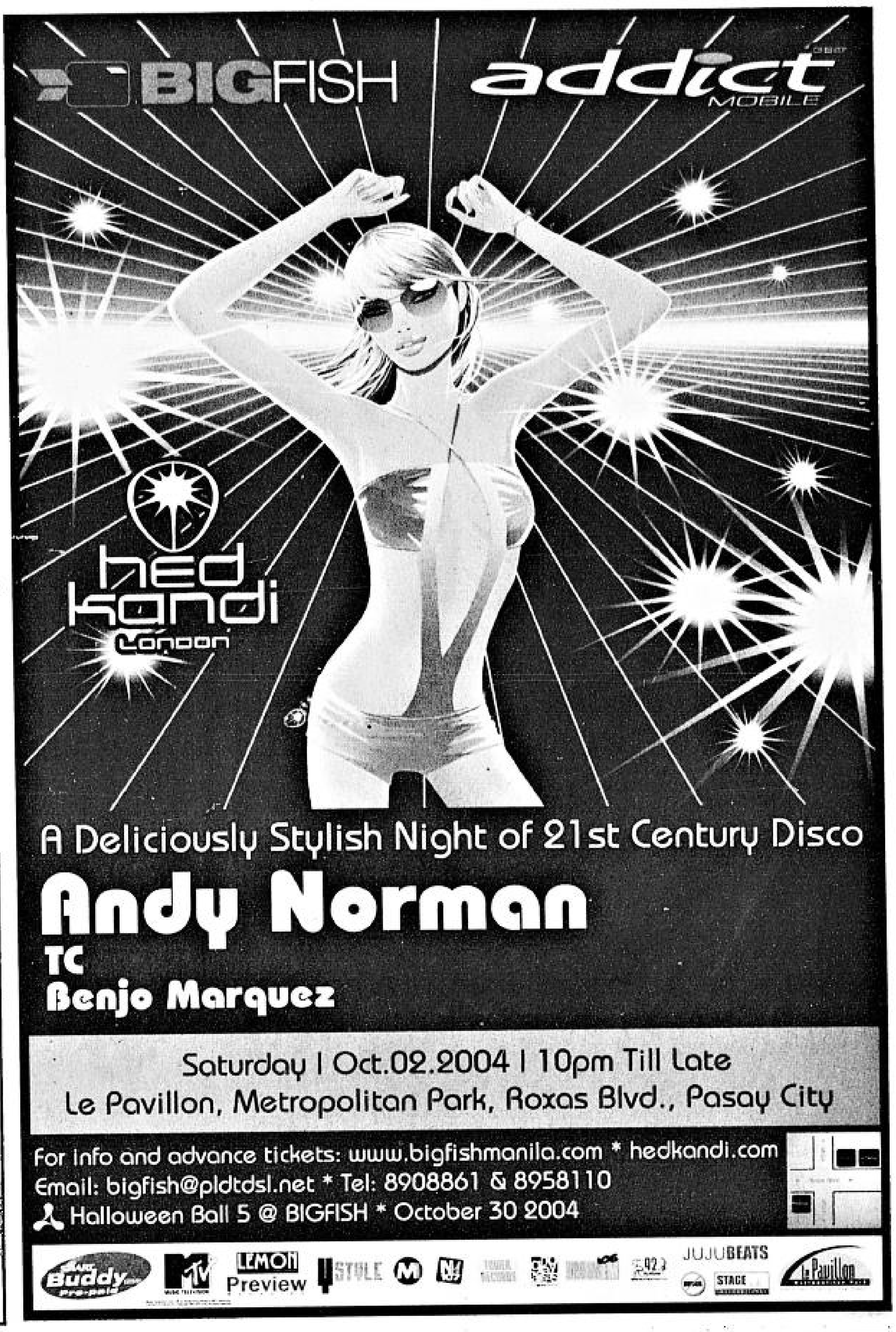
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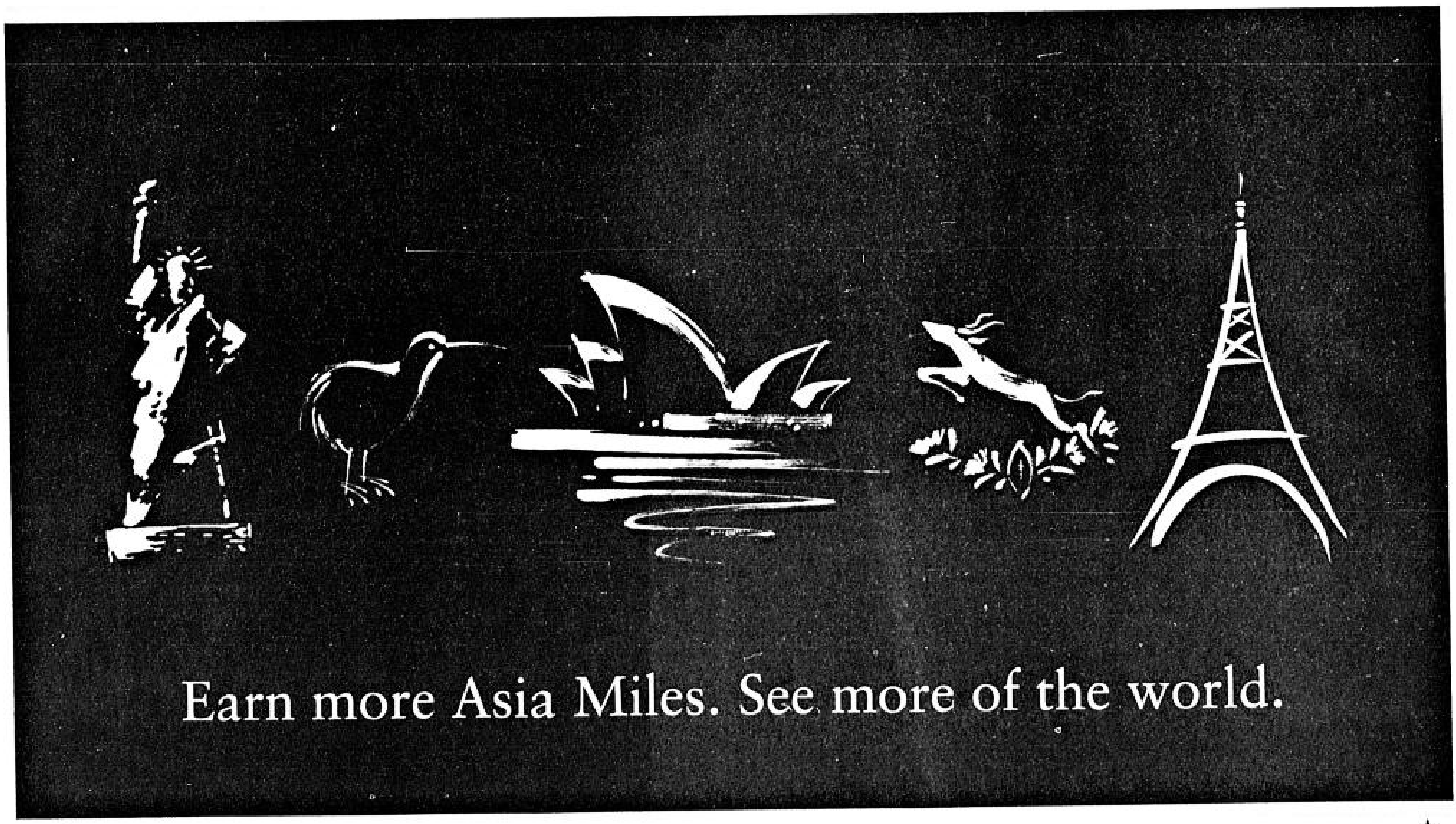
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Adobadong Alimusan

ADOBADONG Alimusan

Marina brings the best of Ilonggo cuisine to Makati's eclectic restaurant scene

Kinilaw na Lucot

KINILAW na Lucot

Bounty from the sea

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

WHEN Mariña's new outlet was recently launched at Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati, Lyn Besa Gamboa and Enting Lacson Lobaton introduced a medley of flavors that are now part of the restaurant's authentic Ilonggo menu.

Gamboa created Efuven with *bihod* sauce, crabmeat and shrimps; Adobadong Alimusan; Paco-Paco Salad with Bilong-Bilong dressing; Linutik (squash dish with coconut milk and *sili* leaves); Apan-Apan with Tulapho (*kangkong* with *bagoong* and pork fat); Sisi Omelette; and Adobong Taba ng Pusit.

Lobaton, on the other hand, made *kinilaw* dishes such as Lucot (seaweeds), Bulao (*alumahan*), Wasay-wasay (shrimps), Salmonete, Tabagak (dried fish) and crabs.

"We live near bodies of water, so we should know how to use the bounty of the sea," says Gamboa, who resides in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

Being a major port in the Visayas, Iloilo is a transit point for goods like seafoods to and from other points in the country. This has opened Ilonggo cuisine to varied influences: Chinese in the noodles, Spanish in the biscuits, indigenous ways with food from surrounding provinces.

"It has enriched the cooking, but at the same time, the cuisine that has emerged has become the Ilonggos' own invention," says Gamboa.

As one who loves to entertain friends and relatives in Negros, Gamboa says that, "cooking is second nature to me. When I want to invent something, I can already taste it in my mouth."

Gamboa has her own gourmet food company named Savor de Silay, which offers Jalea de Tomate, Mermelada de Cebolla, Salsa Man-

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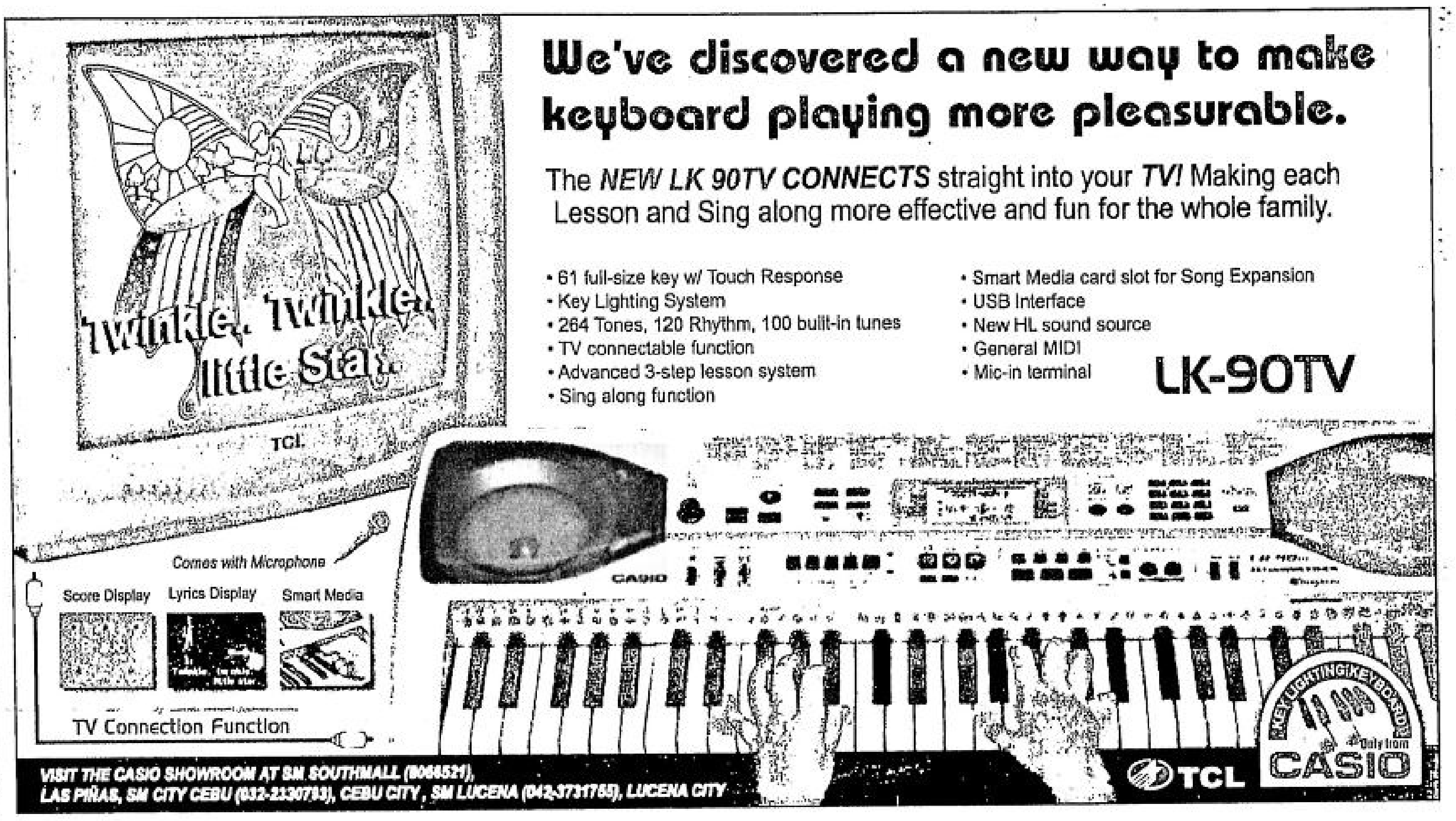

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2) *October 7, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - MUFFINS-MUFFINS - P2,500.* Cinnamon-Crunch Sweet Potato, Onion & Shallots, Country AppleSauce, Choco Chip, Carrot Nut, Banana Walnut Muffins. NEXT SCHED: Nov. 11, 2004
3) *October 11-14, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - ADVANCE GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD- P10,500.* NEXT SCHED: Nov. 13-16, 2004
4) *October 13, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500.* Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin with Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick Boards with Flowers & Veiners & Quilting. NEW SCHED: Nov. 15, 2004
5) *October 16, 2004/ 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P2,500.* Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, ChocoNut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread. NEW SCHED: Nov. 18, 2004
6) *October 18-21, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P12,500.* (inclusive of ingredients) 30 recipes of basic cakes, breads, rolls, pies, pastries & cookies. NEXT SCHED: Nov. 20-23, 2004
7) *October 18-21, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES with cold porcelain recipe - P4,500.* (Each set is lesson covered for one day)
   a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling;
   b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium;
   c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies;
   d) Open Rose, Hydrengeas, Grapes NEW SCHED: Nov. 20-23, 2004
8) *October 13-16, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS 4 DAY COURSE - P11,500.* Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in Cold Porcelain. NEXT SCHED: Nov. 15-18, 2004
9) *October 23, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - FESTIVE COOKIES - P3,000.* Choco Rounds, Spiced Fruits & Nuts, Banana, Pecan, Carrot, Choco, Apple & Oatmeal Cookies. NEXT SCHED: Nov. 25, 2004
10) *October 25-29, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500.* Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing and decoration. NEXT SCHED: Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2004
11) *October 30, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P2,500.* Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for diabeties. NEXT SCHED: Sept. 25, 2004
12) *October 15, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - TAPAS - P2,500.* Spanish Omelette, Chonzo Empenadas, Fish Pastries, Spicy Shrimp & Scallop Croquettes, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Ensaladilla, Seafood croquettes, Pescado frito, Albondigas, Ensalad de pollo & Mallocan Pizza.
13) *October 22, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - EDIBLE GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P2,000.*

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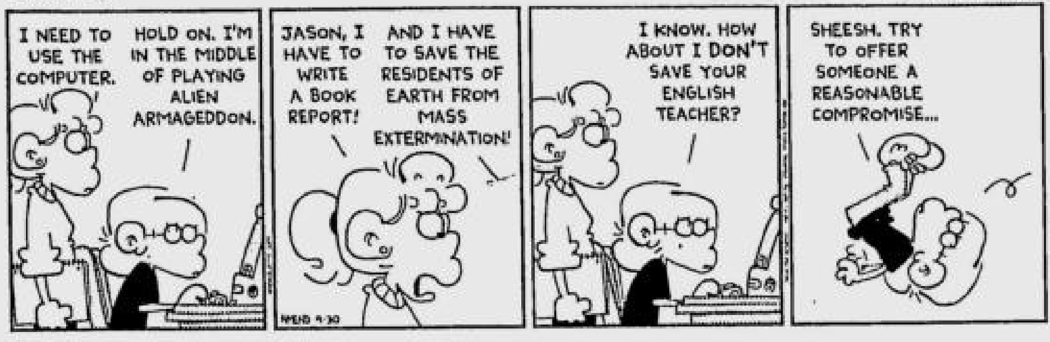
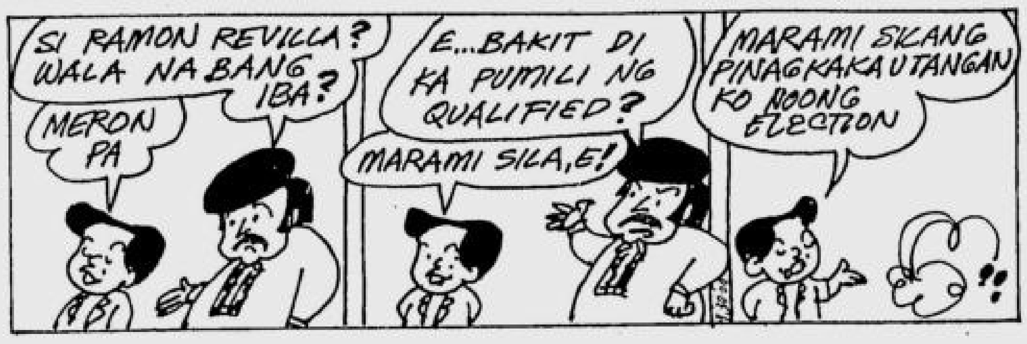
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

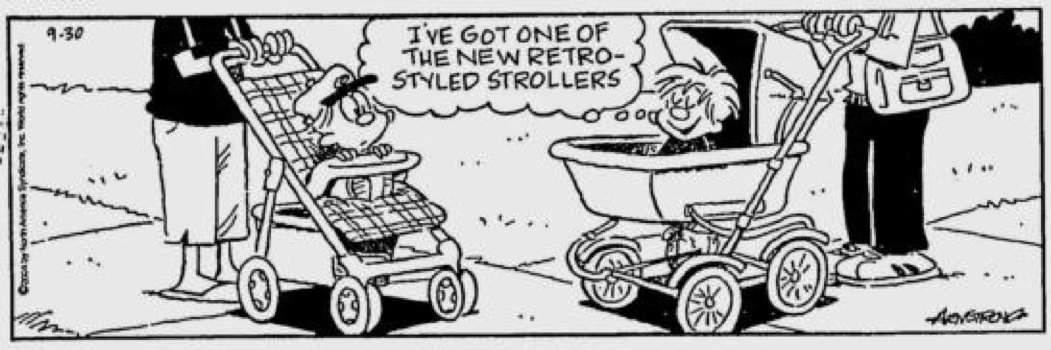
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I NEED TO USE THE COMPUTER.
HOLD ON. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF PLAYING ALIEN ARMAGEDDON.
JASON, I HAVE TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT!
AND I HAVE TO SAVE THE RESIDENTS OF EARTH FROM MASS EXTERMINATION!
I KNOW. HOW ABOUT I DON'T SAVE YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER?
SHEESH. TRY TO OFFER SOMEONE A REASONABLE COMPROMISE...
AMEND 9-30

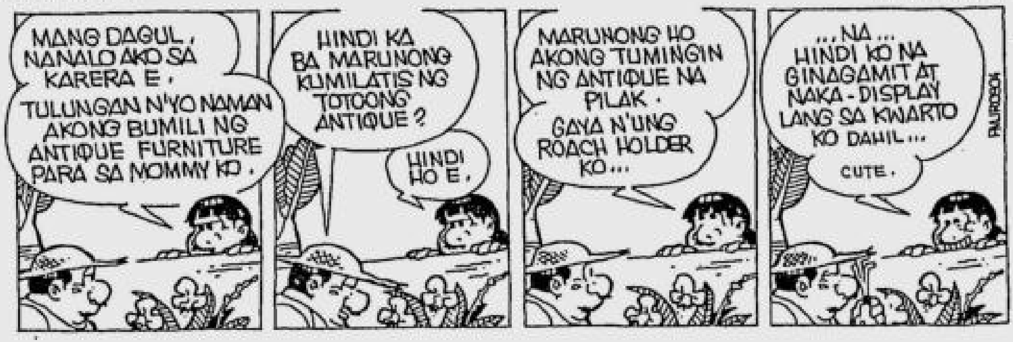
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SI RAMON REVILLA? WALA NA BANG IBA?
MERON PA
E...BAKIT DI KA PUMILI NG QUALIFIED?
MARAMI SILA, E!
MARAMI SIKANG PINAGKAKAUTANGAN KO NOONG ELECTION

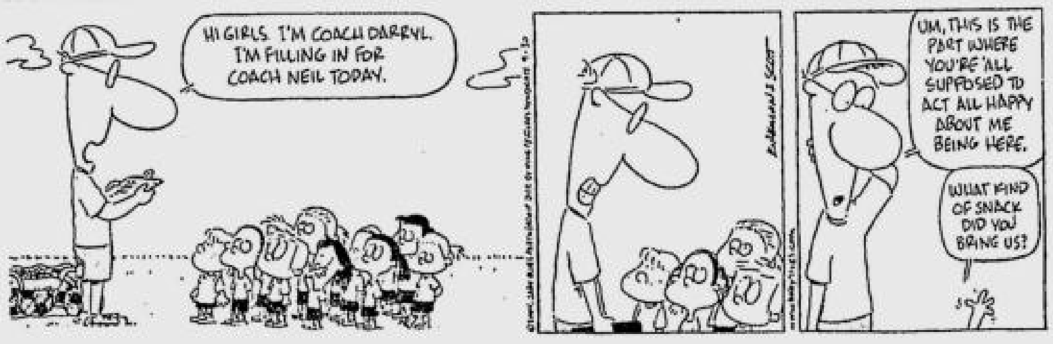
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


9-30
I'VE GOT ONE OF THE NEW RETRO-STYLED STROLLERS
ARMSTRONG

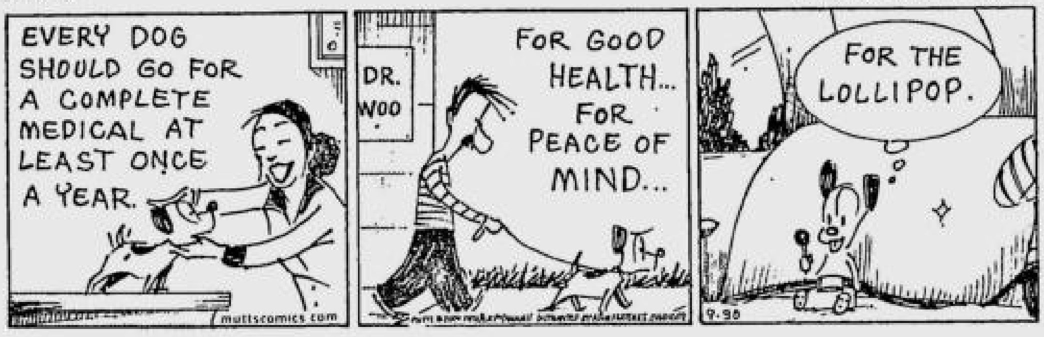
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MANG DAGUL, NANALO AKO SA KARERA E.
TULUNGAN N'YO NAMAN AKONG BUMILI NG ANTIQUE FURNITURE PARA SA MOMMY KO.
HINDI KA BA MARUNONG KUMILATIS NG TOTOONG ANTIQUE?
HINDI HO E.
MARUNONG HO AKONG TUMINGIN NG ANTIQUE NA PILAK.
GAYA N'UNG ROACH HOLDER KO...
...NA... HINDI KO NA GINAGAMIT AT NAKA-DISPLAY LANG SA KWARTO KO DAHIL...
CUTE.
PAUROBOX

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HI GIRLS. I'M COACH DARRYL. I'M FILLING IN FOR COACH NEIL TODAY.
UM, THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO ACT ALL HAPPY ABOUT ME BEING HERE.
WHAT KIND OF SNACK DID YOU BRING US?

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL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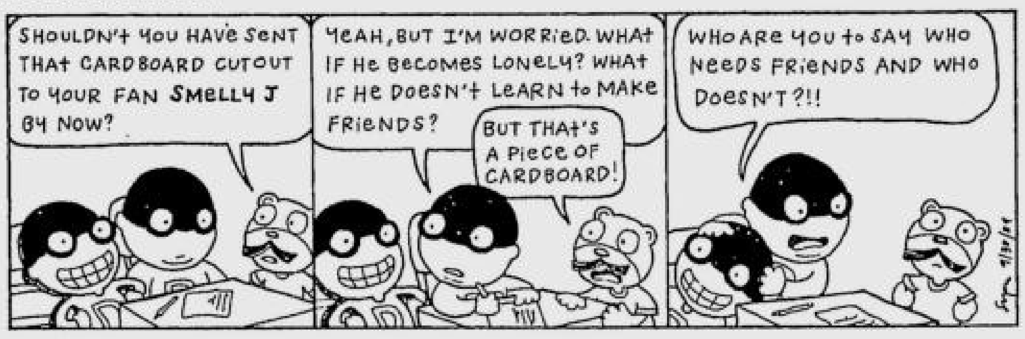
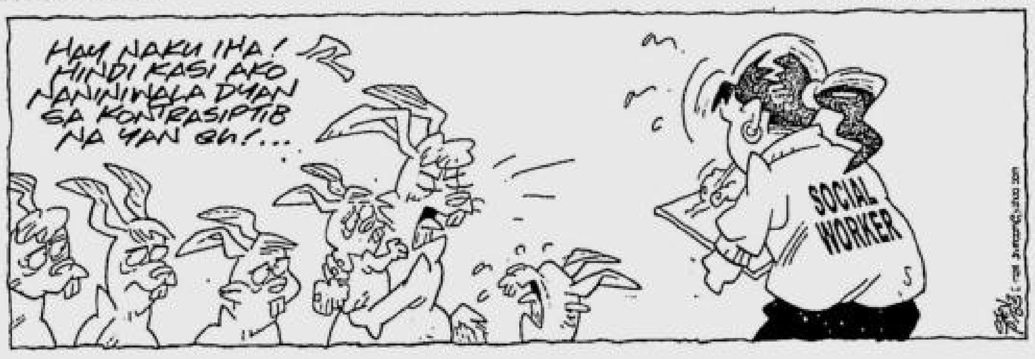
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE SENT THAT CARDBOARD CUTOUT TO YOUR FAN SMELLY J BY NOW?
YEAH, BUT I'M WORRIED. WHAT IF HE BECOMES LONELY? WHAT IF HE DOESN'T LEARN TO MAKE FRIENDS?
BUT THAT'S A PIECE OF CARDBOARD!
WHO ARE YOU TO SAY WHO NEEDS FRIENDS AND WHO DOESN'T?!!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HAY NAKU IHA! HINDI KASI AKO NANINIWALA DYAN SA KONTRASIPTIB NA YAN EH!...
SOCIAL WORKER

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're both knowledgeable and curious. (You don't miss a thing.) You're an excellent researcher and a charming conversationalist. Many of you are self-taught (you certainly learn by experience.) You believe in exposing the truth. Major phases of your life will wrap up this year to make way for new avenues. **Birthdate of:** Truman Capote, novelist; Jenna Elfman, actress; Fran Drescher, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't forget to work hard to solidify your home base. It's important for you to establish an anchor in the world. You need to have a warm feeling in your tummy about where you live.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Streamline your possessions now, because job changes and residential moves are likely. You're putting the finishing touches on the new you. Since 1999, you've reinvented yourself!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Continue to think seriously about what you want to do to earn your money. The bottom line of what you're dealing with now is establishing a values system you can trust.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's been a whole new world since last year. Even your wardrobe and your self-image have changed! Just trust your instincts, because they're yours!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Because you're dismantling much of what you've created since the early '90s, you have to let go of things now. Your first loss is your cheapest loss. (Remember this.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to expand your life to include the welfare of others now. See where you fit into something bigger than yourself. Expand your effectiveness in the world!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a very powerful time in your life. You see clearly what is working. You see clearly what is not. Now you need the courage to decide what to let go of and what to keep.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel and increased education or training can help you make your mark in the next few years. Do your best now. Your best this year will bring home the trophies in 2005-06.

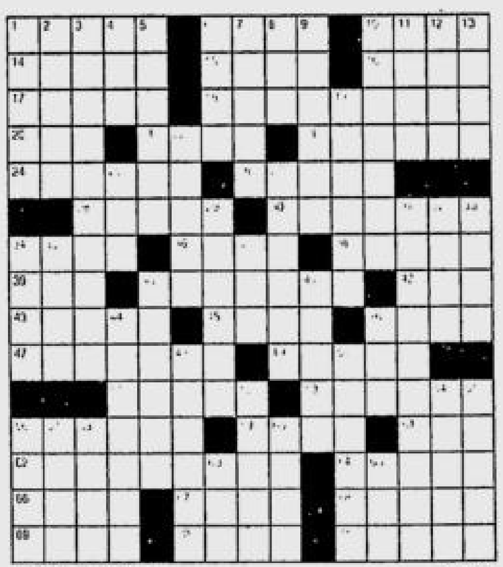
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If help from others was diminished lately, fear not—this will change next year. At that time, partners and other sources will once again bring goodies to your table.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Many of you are renegotiating partnerships now. Some of you are leaving joint ventures. (You need to figure out just how much freedom you need.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's been overwhelming at work or looking for a job. Either way, your employment scene is your greatest challenge now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Increased responsibilities with children will teach you a lot now. You're trying to find your true path in life for now and in the future.

DAILY CROSSWORD

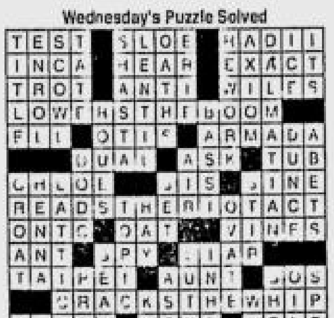


By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
9/30/04

ACROSS
1 Voodoo spells
6 Pueblo people
10 __ mater
14 Legend automaker
15 Hot box
16 Detroit gridder
17 Commonplace
18 Enter uninvited
20 Antlered creature
21 Runaway GI
23 Combo bet
24 Former Princess of Wales, casually
26 Venetian-blind strips
28 Kingdom
30 Transfixes
34 "Rich Man, Poor Man" author
36 Squat down
38 Gray-faced
39 Manhandle
40 Nautical craft
42 Bullpen stat
43 Action site
45 Feel concern
46 Cut short
47 Satellite of Uranus
49 Letter flourish
51 Lamaze subject
53 Gung-ho guy
56 Stuck up
59 Military grp.
61 Wedding declaration
62 Perfectly satisfactory
64 Proprietor
66 Table spread
67 Black, to Blake
68 Scarlett's love
69 Norway's patron saint
70 Goddess of victory
71 "Dah" man

DOWN
1 Normand of silent movies
2 Florida city
3 Cabinet catchall
4 __ pro nobis
5 Lipton rival
6 Tramp
7 Roundish shapes
8 Part of rpm
9 Interlocking
10 Assumed names
11 "The Mod Squad" role
12 Feminist Lucretia
13 Celebes buffalo
19 Frills
22 Oscar or Cornel
25 Poisonous evergreen
27 NBA team
29 Oman capital
31 Protective paper
32 Actress Garr
33 Ginger cookie
34 Unwanted e-mail
35 Mata __
37 R.E. Lee's nation
40 Dressing table
41 Talk-show host Gibbons
44 "Lolita" novelist
46 U.S. undercover grp.
48 Restoration poet
50 Go straight
52 Impresario Sol
54 "Waiting for Lefty" dramatist
55 Nut cake
56 Go away!
57 __ and void
58 SSS status
60 "Auld Lang __"
63 Kimono sash
65 Sci-fi Doctor

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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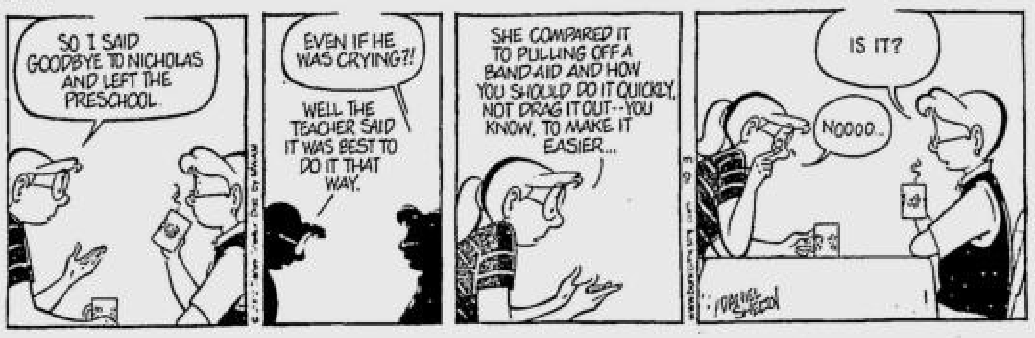
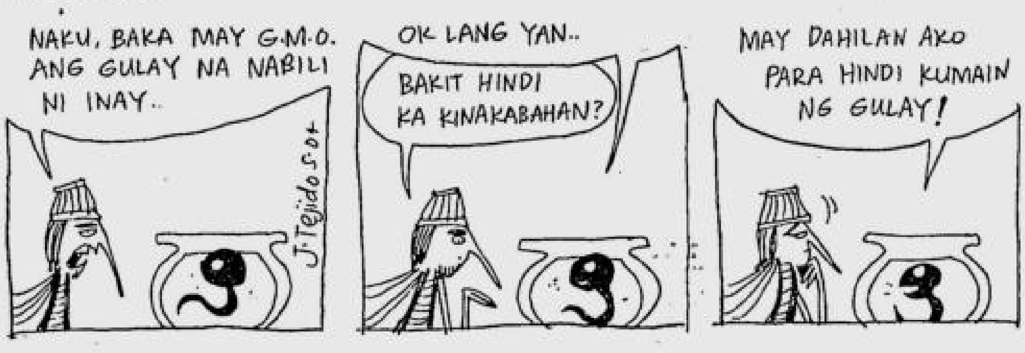
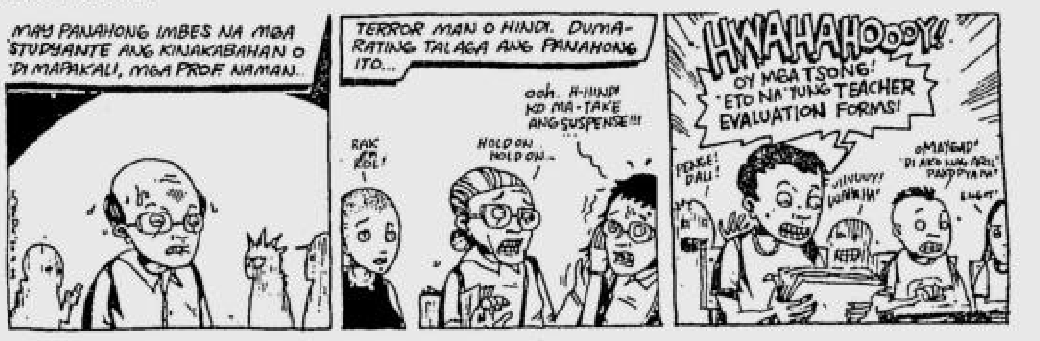
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO I SAID GOODBYE TO NICHOLAS AND LEFT THE PRESCHOOL.
EVEN IF HE WAS CRYING?!
WELL THE TEACHER SAID IT WAS BEST TO DO IT THAT WAY.
SHE COMPARED IT TO PULLING OFF A BAND AID AND HOW YOU SHOULD DO IT QUICKLY, NOT DRAG IT OUT--YOU KNOW. TO MAKE IT EASIER...
IS IT?
NOOOO..

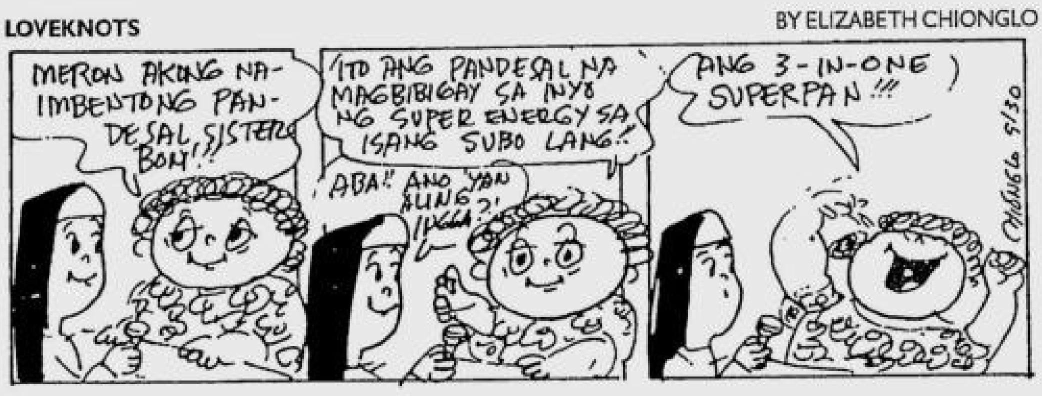
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, BAKA MAY G.M.O. ANG GULAY NA NABILI NI INAY..
J. Tejido 5.04
OK LANG YAN..
BAKIT HINDI KA KINAKABAHAN?
MAY DAHILAN AKO PARA HINDI KUMAIN NG GULAY!

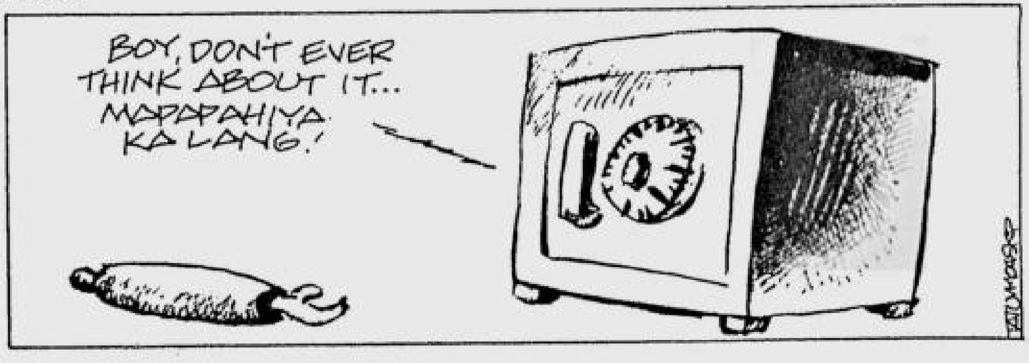
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

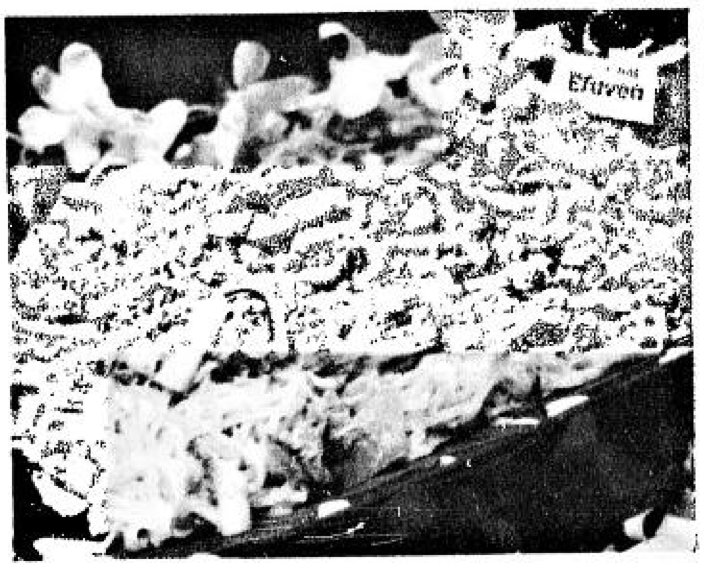

MAY PANAHONG IMBES NA MGA STUDYANTE ANG KINAKABAHAN O 'DI MAPAKALI, MGA PROF NAMAN..
TERROR MAN O HINDI. DUMARATING TALAGA ANG PANAHONG ITO...
ooh. H-HINDI KO MA-TAKE ANG SUSPENSE!!!
RAK EN ROL!
HOLD ON HOLD ON..
HWAHAHOOOY!
OY MGA TSONG! 'ETO NA 'YUNG TEACHER EVALUATION FORMS!
PEACE! DAU!
WUUUY! WAHIH!
'MAYGAD' 'DI AKO LUG ARIL PAKIPYAPA'
EHEH!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MERON AKONG NA-IMBENTONG PAN-DESAL, SISTER BOM!!
ITO ANG PANDESAL NA MAGBIBIGAY SA INYO NG SUPER ENERGY SA ISANG SUBO LANG!
ABA!! ANO YAN AUNG IKGA?!
ANG 3-IN-ONE SUPERPAN!!!
CHIONGLO 9/30

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOY, DON'T EVER THINK ABOUT IT... MAPAPAHIYA KA LANG!



EFUVEN

APAN-APAN with Tulapho

KINILAW na Bulao

Bounty from the sea

From page E1

ga, *bijod* pasta sauce and guapple pie filling.

Fresh ingredients

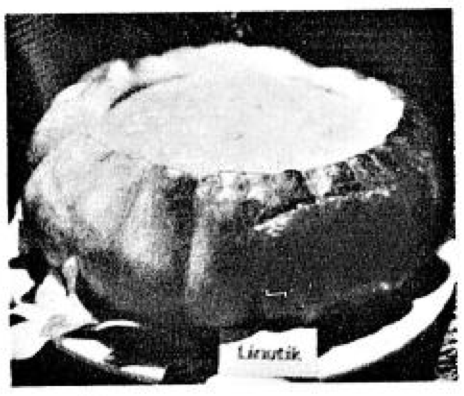
A fisherman-turned-restaurateur, Lobaton says that the key factor in making *kinilaw* is the freshness of ingredients.

"*Ang kinikilaw ay yung bagong huli. 'Pag nakuha mo ang panlasa ng tao, yun ang pinakamasarap na kinilaw para sa kanila. May kaunting tamis, alat at asim,*" says Lobaton, who resides in Sagay, Negros Occidental.

He adds that it was his late father who taught him how to make *kinilaw* when he was only 14 years old.

Marina has outlets on Jupiter Street, Makati, tel. 8978271; Pearl Drive, Ortigas, 6378016; Boom na Boom Complex, Roxas Boulevard, 8329301 to 02; Glorietta 4, Makati, 7732752; Iloilo (Sen. B. Aquino Avenue, SM City and Mary Mart Mall); and SM City Cebu.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



LINUTIK

PACO-PACO Salad

ROSS Paul Gorriceta, Enting Lobaton and Lyn Gamboa

Citrus and spice in your coffee

ENJOY Starbucks' Caffè Citron Frappuccino until Oct. 15.

Caffé Citron, the latest addition to the Frappuccino Blended Coffee beverage lineup, is a combination of citrus and spice blended with coffee, ice and topped with deliciously candied lemon peel.

Frappuccino Blended Coffee was first introduced in 1995.

Starbucks recommends enjoying the Caffé Citron Frappuccino with its lemon square, offered for a limited time only.

Customers can win a vacation to one of the country's resorts in the "Starbucks Dream Getaway Promo." Lucky winners can win a trip to Palawan, Boracay or Samal Island. For every P350 purchase of a Caffé Citron Frappuccino Blended Coffee, customers will get a Dream Getaway Promotional Card as entry. A total of 18 three-day/two-night vacation packages will be raffled off.

CAFFÈ Citron Frappuccino

NEWSFLAHHHHSH!

The new Coca-Cola Ref Pack

Space savahhhh!

The innovative new *Coca-Cola Ref Pack* fits easily onto the shelf of any refrigerator.

The long, slender carton, which holds up to 8 cans of Coke, is designed to make use of dead space in the ref.

Thirst savahhhh!

The *Coca-Cola Ref Pack* allows you to keep your Coke cans ice-cold!

A small opening in the front dispenses the cans easily so it rolls out and slides right onto the shelf.

The new Coca-Cola Ref Pack... ready to rock! And ready to roll out your next can of ice-cold Coke!

Coca-Cola NBA SURE SHOT

Grab COKE and score loads of instant prizes!
Win up to 1 Million Pesos!

Mechanics
1. Buy a Coke 8-can Ref pack, 1.5L [illegible], or 500mL [illegible], and get a peel-off card.
2. Peel the cover, and text the code to 2346 only through Globe.
3. Get a text reply to know if you've won any of these instant prizes.

FREE P100 LOADS!

Basketball shoes, "NBA at 50" DVDs and VCDs, Spalding basketballs, GLOBE P100 loads, NBA jerseys

4. OR, get a text reply with the letter C, O, K, or E. Complete all 4 letters to form the word "COKE" and WIN 1 Million Pesos!
5. Claim your prizes at: The Coca-Cola Head Office, 4/F King's Court Bldg 2, 2129 Pasong Tamo Makati City.

New Coca-Cola Ref pack!

1 The new way to enjoy an ice cold Coke at home
2 Grab a can and let it roll!
3 Refrigerate and Enjoy!

Prizes courtesy of:
Globe SPALDING OLYMPIC VILLAGE

PROMO PERIOD: August 16 - September 30, 2004
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2004

Blurred or missing cable TV channels

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

TWO cable television subscribers have had it, complaining about channels that are either blurred or nowhere to be found on their sets.

They're also fed up with the coming and going of repair crews that cannot seem to get to the root of the problem. Now, they want to complain to the appropriate government authorities, hoping to get action on the company's disservice.

"I'm sick and tired," complains P. Sanchez, a customer of Destiny Cable who relates in his e-mail to us that sometimes the missing channels are 37 and 38. But nowadays, he says, he cannot even find channels 82 Deutchewelle, 84 and 88.

According to him, teams of repairmen have come and gone to check his unit. There are two different groups: the "inside" crew checks the television set, and the "outside" (preventive maintenance team) people look at the node or main box on the street. The box supplies signal to the connected cables.

Sanchez adds, "The technical teams never give us an answer when we ask what is causing the problem. And when I called customer service for the first time, they told me I was the only one complaining in my area. Contrary to that claim, I have spoken to another subscriber on our street with the same complaint. Through your column, may I request other subscribers who experience the same problem to text me at 0919-3914791, so we can take collective action against this (disservice)?"

> One subscriber complains that though not a single letter or number is missing from the peso bills he pays the provider, he still gets incomplete service

We can say that he is not alone in his distress. Somewhere along Singalong Street lives this subscriber with Global Destiny account number 703280, who sent us a similar complaint. She wrote, "I called up the company asking them to send a technician because the channels from 38 and above were blurred, grainy and sometimes outright unviewable, with the color fading to almost black and white. The person who answered on the other end said there was really some problem with those channels from their end, and their technicians were trying to fix it. She couldn't say when the maintenance work would be completed. To this date, the said channels remain blurred."

Sanchez quipped at the end of his letter, "My payments (to the cable TV company) are always complete, and no letter or number is missing from the peso bills I pay them. Why can't we have the complete number of channels we're supposed to get from their signal? P.S. I would appreciate information on what government agency oversees these companies."

Where to send complaints

Cable TV subscribers of Global Destiny (the company also has an Internet service) who need to complain or inquire about service can call up customer care at 8419333. It can be an ordeal, however, having to deal with the automated call distribution system that handles all incoming calls.

First, you dial the main trunkline and wait for a taped voice to tell you what extension line to press on your telephone. We did just that—several times, mind you—and invariably got the reply, "The party you are calling is unavailable. Please try to call later."

To answer the query of P. Sanchez, the government agency that oversees cable TV concerns is the broadcast department of the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC), tel. 9243744. It takes care of complaints and inquiries regarding cable TV, radio and television.

By the way, the NTC also has a separate department that handles concerns about cellular phones, telephones and Internet. Readers who wrote to us about billing complaints against cellular phone companies, for example, can call the CCAB (Common Carrier and Authorization Department), with tel. no. 9244026. For more information on both areas of concern, call the One-stop Public Assistance Center at 9244079.

A word of caution: don't call after office hours. It's a government office, after all.

Q&A

From Jan Samonte of Novaliches, QC: "The channels on my television are sometimes blurred. The repairman said the trouble was with my TV, and he advised me to buy a new one with a flat screen. Who can help me with my problem?"

We don't handle this kind of question, which is a technical matter. Nevertheless, we consulted our cable TV technical consultant and got the following comment that answers the reader's query:

"The clarity of image on the television screen depends basically on the quality of the signal it is getting from the antenna (or cable, as in the case of cable TVs) it is connected to. Flat screens are an improvement on earlier television screens. Its main advantage over the common curved screen is that it reduces reflections."

The technician did not want to comment on whether or not the flat screen improves picture quality.

Cooking classes

LEARN techniques in preparing Japanese traditional dishes and specialties from Maya Kitchen and Chef Seiji Kamura on Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The classes will cover, among others, Sushi and Maki, Chicken and Miso Yaki, secret formulation of teriyaki sauce and three kinds of Japanese salad and dressings. Participants will also get a free "Secret of Japanese" cookbook.

Maya Kitchen is also offering classes in Waitering and Bartending Basics, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on Oct 2, 9 and 16.

Learn how to bake "Cookies and Bars," Oct. 2, 1:30-5 p.m., and get a bonus Decadence Brownie.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City.

Call 8921185/5011 local 108. Or e-mail mkitchen@ultilmate.info.com.ph.

Festival of flavors

BREADTALK, Singapore's premiere boutique bakery, is offering its own version of the mooncake. The mooncakes come in four special flavors: single-yolk Green Tea, White Lotus Paste, Red Lotus Paste and Golden Pandan.

The mooncake festival celebrates the day when the moon is supposed to be at its biggest, brightest and closest to earth.

BreadTalk's mooncakes are available at its Glorietta 4 branch while supplies last. The mooncakes come in signature BreadTalk packaging in two or four pieces, for P388 and P600, respectively.

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Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

September 30, Thurs. - CREPES WORKSHOP: CLASSIC AND CRISPY. Crepes for home and business, savory, sweet and in-between homestyle and the commercial way; Chef Junjun will be helping you make: Seafood Crepes, Chicken-Spinach Crepes, Ham Asparagus in Mornay Sauce, Crepes samurai, Apple Caramel Crepes, Cherry, Chocolate and many more. For P1,800.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 03, Sun. - A CLASS FULL OF BROWNIES. Let's get ready for Christmas! For the novice baker, dessert lover and café owners, here is the class for you. Chef Junjun will show and teach you a variety of brownies namely: Traditional, Coffee Blond, Marble, White Chocolate, Chocochip Blondies and Strawberry Blondies. All ingredients are included for P1,000.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

October 04, Mon. - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 2. Chef Junjun demonstrates definitely scrumptious Christmas baked sweeties for your Holiday Season giveaways such as Pecan Doodles, Toffee Crunch Bars, Double Chocolate Squares, Macadamia White Chocolate Cookies, Peanut Butter Cookies and Mango Cream Cheese Cookies. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 06, Wed. - CHRISTMAS CAKES AND DESSERTS. Dessert and baked creations for the special season of giving and receiving that Chef Junjun will be making for all of you. The recipes are Sticky Toffee Pudding, Engaño Bobos, Buco Meringue Surprise, Decadent almond Cake, Café Sponge Elegance and Mango Butter Cake for P1,200.00 with all the ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 12, Tues. - FAVORITE COOKIES AND BARS 3. New and different baked creations to give your family and friends. You'll surely enjoy fun-filled class with Chef Junjun making: Chewy Choc-Chip Cookie, Cherry Chocolate Sweeties, Gingersnaps, Choco-Hazelnut Caramel Squares, Orange Almond Biscotti and Dark Oatmeal Cookies for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 14, Thurs. - BREADS. Bread recipes from our Pastry and Cake Decorator Chef, Chef Ana Baluyot, recipes include Ensaimada, Pan de Sal, Banana Loaf, French Bread Roll, Cheese Cupcake and Pan de Limon from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. including all ingredients for P1,200.00.

October 28, Thurs. - DESSERTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Christmas recipes that can be used as a gift and give-away to our family and friends, the recipes are Strawberry Shortcake, Key Lime Cheesecake, Chocolate Fruits Cake, Apple Pie, Chocolate Fudge Layered Banana Cake and Meringue with Fruit Salad for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

COOKING CLASSES

October 01, Fri. - COOKING WITH BAGOONG. Binagoongang Baboy, Sambal Pork and Gulay Luto sa Bagoong are just some of the recipes that Chef David Fajardo will be teaching us in this lifestyle class. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00. NEW CLASS.

October 02, Sat. - MIDDLE EASTERN COOKING. Dukkous al Tamat (Tomato Sauce with Baharat Mix), Ruz Bukhan (Saffron Rice), Fattoush (Toasted Bread Salad), Bamya bi Lahm (Lamb with Okra), Samak Manshi (Fried Stuffed Fish) are the recipes from Chef David Fajardo that he will be sharing us in this Middle Eastern Cooking experience. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,200.00. NEW CLASS.

October 5, Tues. - THE CRAB IS KING 1. Recipes from Chef Gene that are all time restaurant favorites and can be prepared this holiday season includes Than-Long Crab, Crab Cakes, Stuffed Crab Bisque, Fried Salted Spicy Crab and Quiampong with Crabmeat. P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

October 7, Thurs. - PASTA IN A FLASH. Let Chef Gino teach you 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Pasta Fritata, Linguine in Vongole Sauce, Chorizo, Mushroom and Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Chicken and Shrimp Lemon Crème Sauce, Pasta Bianca alla Carbonara, Pasta Salad with Honey Dill Dressing and Gino's Puttanesca for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

October 08, Fri. - SUNDAY DISHES. Delicious hearty and family meals is what Chef Gene offers such as Lengua Sulipeña, Pescado con Mayonesa, Callos, Roast Chicken with Apples and White Sausage Stuffing with Caramelized Onion Sauce, Baked Leeks with Gruyere and Sopa de Flan for P1,000.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

October 09, Sat. - SIMPLE JAPANESE MEAL 1. Chef Gene will teach us easy to prepare Japanese meal with recipes like Wakame Soup, Ebi Tempura, Uji Kintoki, Chahan Mushi, and Chicken Katsu. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

October 11, Mon. - PASTA IN A FLASH 2. Another 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Porcini with Cambozola Sauce, Roasted Walnut Gorgonzola Sauce, Truffle Scented Liver Sauce, Seafood with Hazelnut Butter Sauce, Scallop and Shrimp Saffron Sauce, Chorizo and Chicken Tomato Cream, Mushroom Pancetta in Olive oil, Chicken and Shrimp Pesto are recipes from Chef Gino. For P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

October 13, Wed. - NOCHE BUENA FEAST. Chef Gino will teach you tasty and delicious holiday dishes served during Noche Buena and other special occasions. Recipes include Lengua con Cetas, Roast Rib-eye with Onion Gravy, Spanish Style Roast Turkey, Cannelloni and Prawns Thermidor for P1,500.00 from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

October 15, Fri. - DAVE'S SUNDAY CURRIES. Assorted curries with all the fixins for a grand meal from Chef David Fajardo will be demonstrated. The recipes are Chicken Curry, Lamb Curry, Fruit Curry, Fish Curry, Pork and Potato Curry. The recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. for P1,200.00.

October 16 - 17, Sat. and Sun. - THE COFFEE CLASS 1 & 2 Learn from Chef Gene Gonzalez, the tastemaster of coffee and consultant designer to several coffee house systems teach you (hands-on) the basic of making proper and profitable cups of Americano, Espresso, Cappuccino, Lattés, etc. The class will also touch on the basics of blending, machine and costing on the first day. Day 2 will cover exciting and high profit cold coffee concoctions with creative topping and syrups such as Mocha Madness, Café Seville, Café Tortoni, Coffee Jelly etc. The course is open to both restaurant operators and hobbyists. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 for Ph 3,000.00 for the 2 days.

October 18, Mon. - ART OF FRIED AND APPETIZER, JAPANESE STYLE. Easy to follow recipe from Chef Rikichi Aoki that you can serve to your friends and family, the recipes are Tempura Ebi, Monawase, Tempura Kakiage, Agedashi Tofu and Gyoza Yasai Itame for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 19, Tues. - SIMPLE SUSHI & SASHIMI WORKSHOP 2. You will learn from Chef Rikichi Aoki of Osaka, Japan How to Trim Flat Fish, How to make Aji Sushi, Futomaki Rainbow, Maki Inari Sushi, See Chicken Maki, Tamago Yaki and Nigiri Sushi. Recipes include ingredients for P1,000.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

October 20, Wed. - HOLIDAY TURKEY TREAT. Impress your friends with a complete Turkey dinner for the coming Holiday season. Recipes include 4 kinds of Stuffing, Giblet Gravy, Corn Bread, Split Pea Soup, Old Fashioned Fruit Salad and Glazed Sweet Potatoes with Campfire Crust. P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m.

October 21, Thurs. - CHINESE DIMSUMS 2. Sequel to Chef Ana's dimsum class 1 another set of Chinese dimsums will be demonstrated to learn on. The recipes are Spareribs, Pork and Shrimp Wonton, Shark's Fin Siomai, Buchi and Glutinous Rice with Chicken in Lotus for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

October 22, Fri. - DAVE'S ADOBO CLASS. Adobong Balut, Adobo sa Gata, Adobong Sugpo sa Taba ng Talangka are some of the recipes that Chef David Fajardo will be teaching. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

October 25, Mon. - THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chariya Thaikupt, Tom Kha Talay, Bagoong Rice, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

October 26, Tues. - THAI KAKANIN. Authentic Thai delicacies will be demonstrated by Chef Chariya Thaikupt, the recipes are Chewy Pandan Strings, Rice Cracker with Sauce, Cassava Cake, Tua Pab and Thai Iced Tea for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

October 27, Wed. - SPANISH TAPAS 2. Great Canapes to Serve at Parties from Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palate, the recipes are Baked Mussels with Proscuitto and Mozzarella, Marinated Seafood in Seashell, Delicious Spinach Span Allopitas, Salmon Pate with Melba Toast, Chilled Lemony Mushrooms, Cold Jumbo Shrimps In Porcelain Spoon and Stuffed Grapes for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

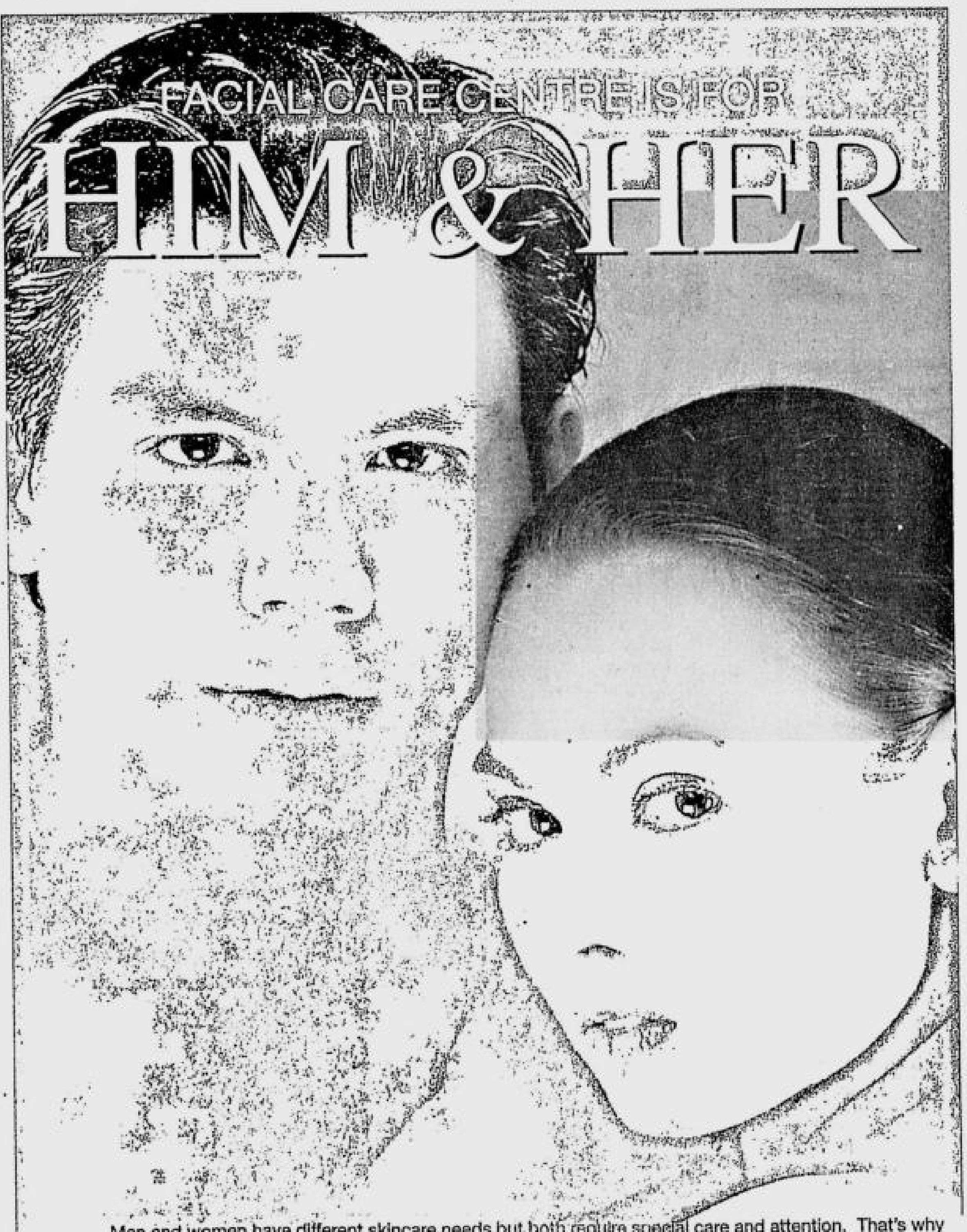
October 29, Fri. - COOKING WITH GATA. New recipes from Chef David Fajardo will be demonstrated to us that can be served to our family and friends. The recipes are Kohol sa Gata, Guinataang Hito, Chicken with Gata, Sinaing na Isda sa Gata at Guinataang Puso ng Saging. P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

November 05, Fri. - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS. Let Chef Gino teach you recipes and costings that can be used for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Waldorf Salad, Mixed Mushroom Parmesan Pasta, Chicken Croquettes with Honey Mustard Garlic Sauce, Lapu-lapu with Caper Buerre Blanc, Pork Roast Stuffed with Port Wine Gravy and Mango Crepe Surprise for P2,000.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

November 06, Sat. - DAVE'S COMFORT FOOD: LUTONG BAHAY. Another set of new recipes will be shared by Chef David Fajardo, recipes that can be cook regularly in our own homes. The recipes are Nilaga, Sinigang, Adobado and Menudo Espesyal. The recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

November 09, Tues. - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS 2. Once again, let Chef Gino teach you more recipes that's good for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Grape, Olive and Anchovy Salad, Beef Lasagna; Seabass Meuniere Braised in Sauce Nantua; Gino's Baby Back Ribs; Potatoes Dauphinoise and Dolce Tostada for P2,000.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN COOKING AND BAKING SKILLS
Lessons cover all areas of basic kitchen skills, meat, fish, poultry and seafood fabrication; vegetables; pasta and other starch accompaniments and internationally accepted standards for baking. Menu planning and wine appreciation will be part of the program.
This series is intended for individuals who have no time to take the full time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire the necessary basic skills, tools and techniques to enable them to enter a more lucrative world of recreational and even, professional cooking and baking. This series will culminate with a lunch buffet prepared by the students.
The 10-day, 24 session course will be handled by chef-restaurateurs and consultant and will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, chef's jacket, manual and chef's kit. Classes will start October 16. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.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CEBU TEL: 233-7631 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

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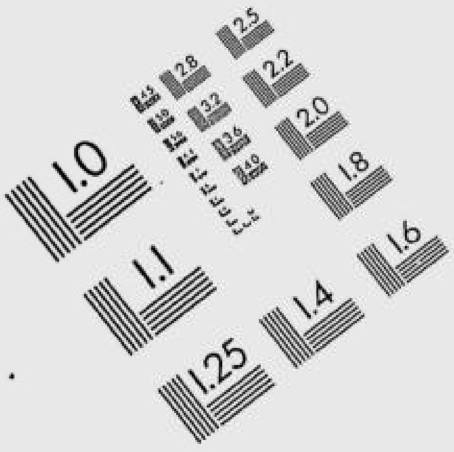

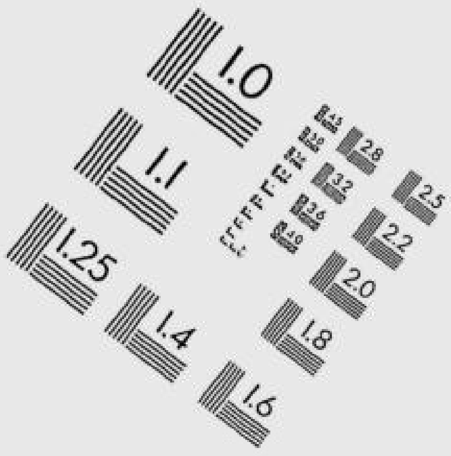

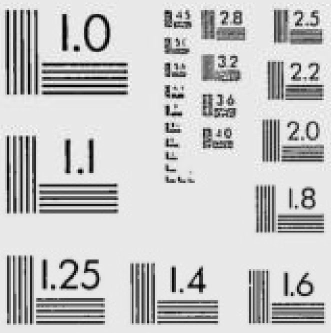
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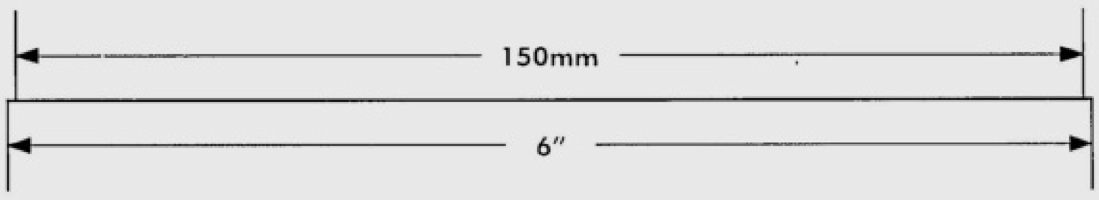

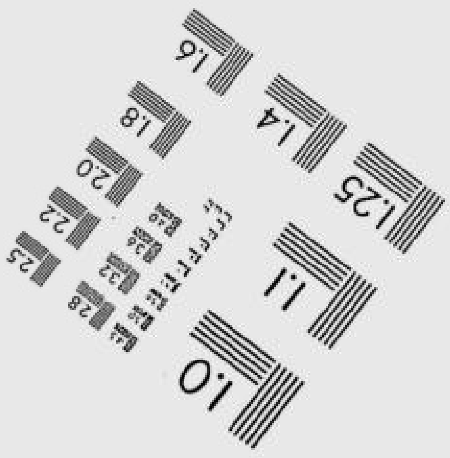

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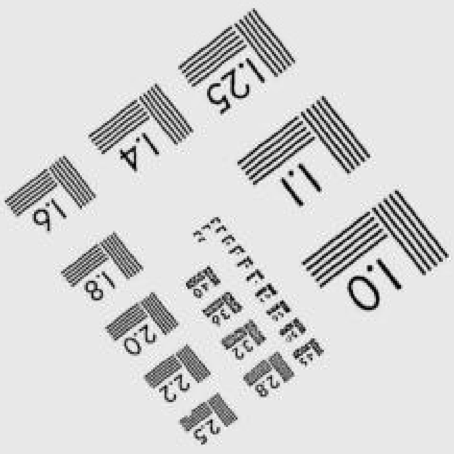

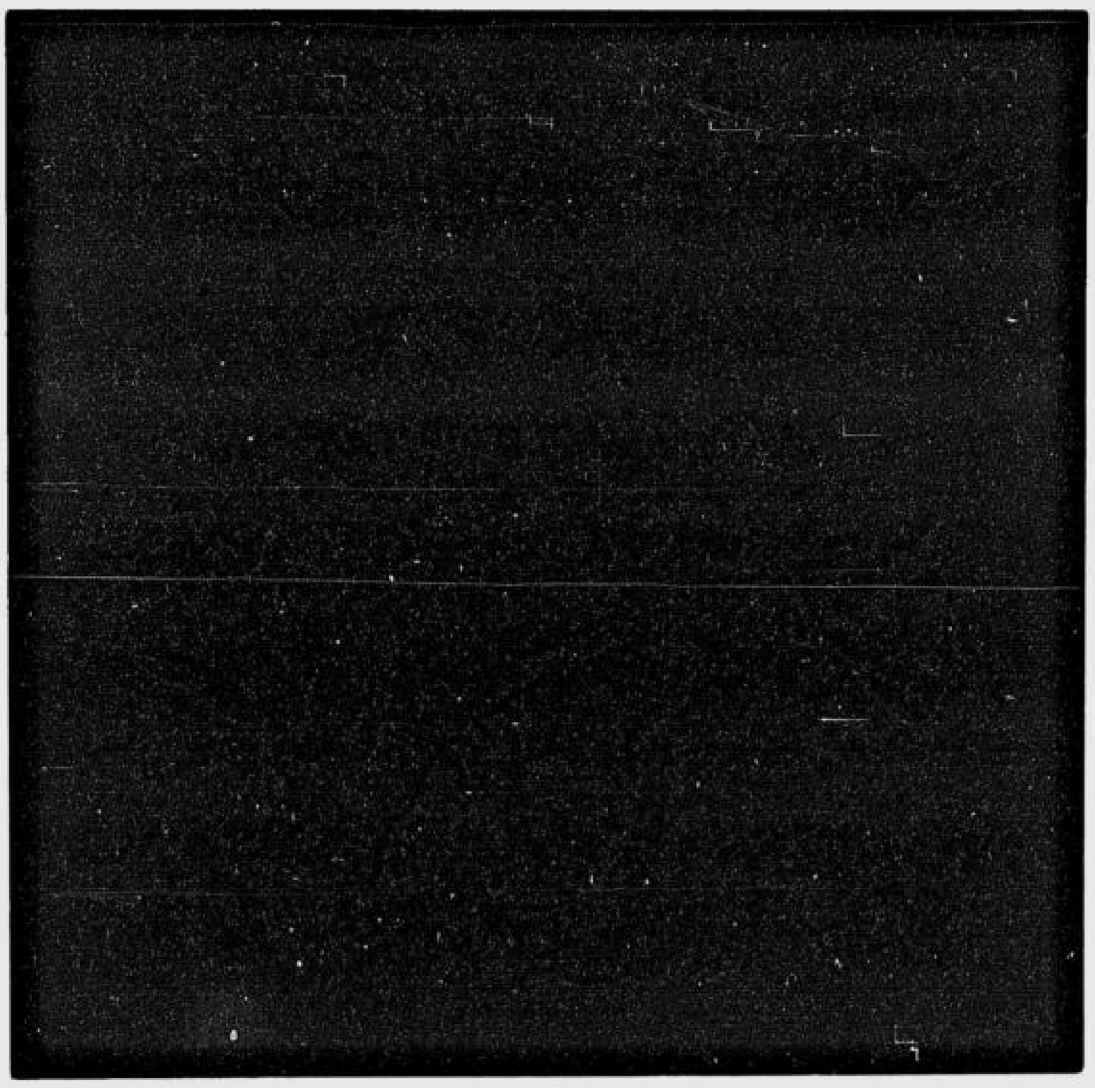

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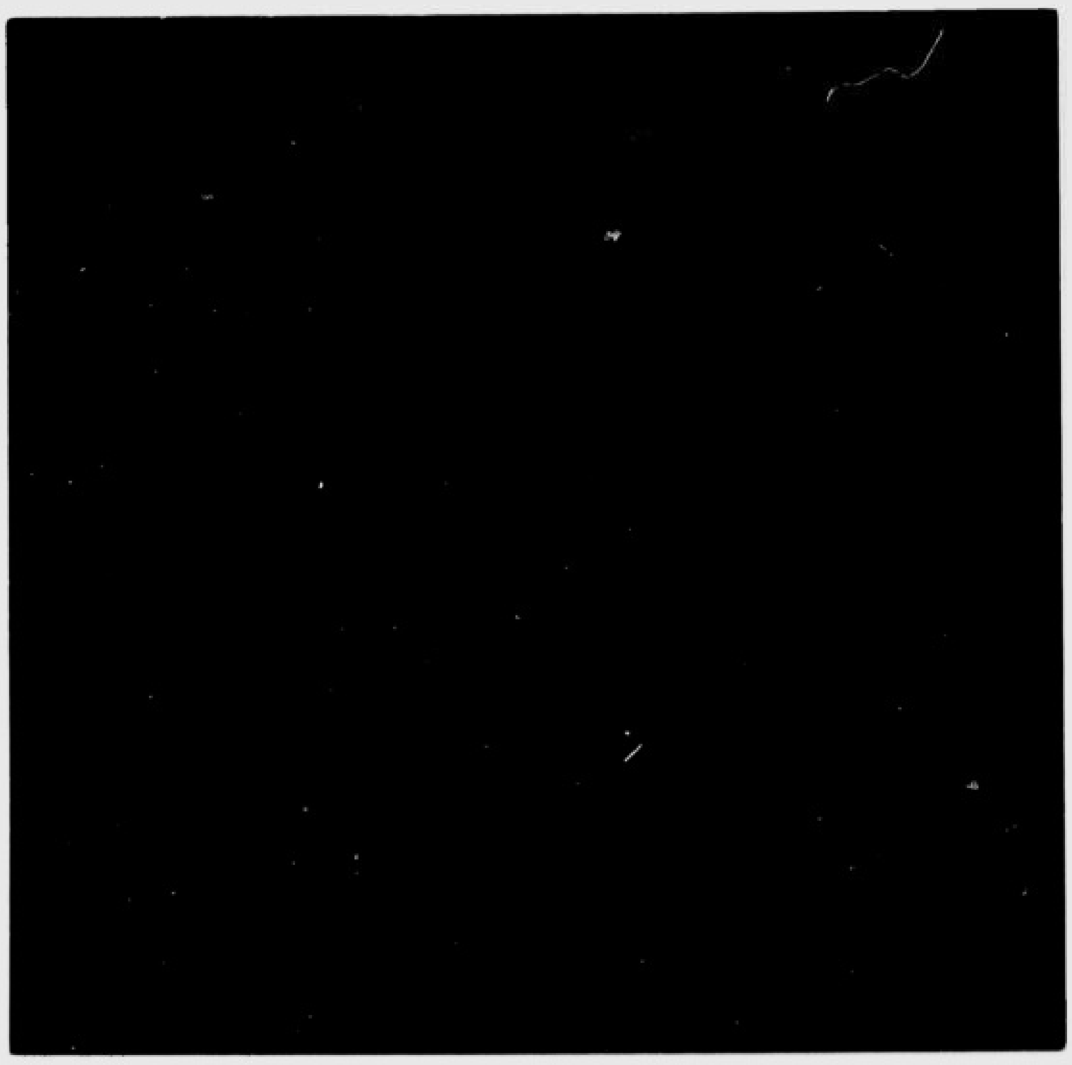
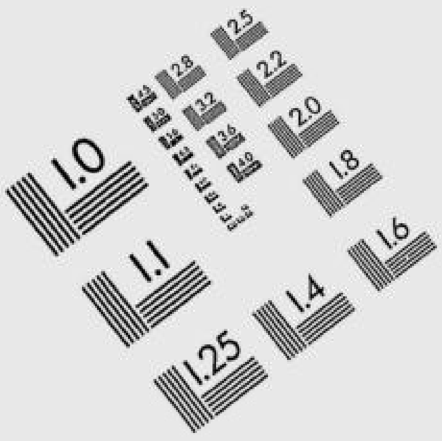


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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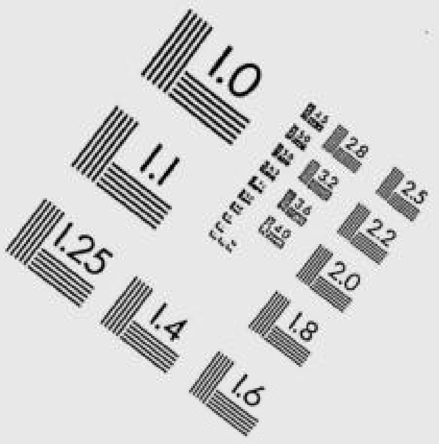
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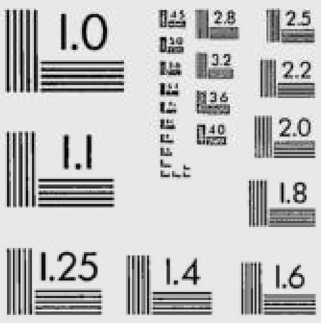
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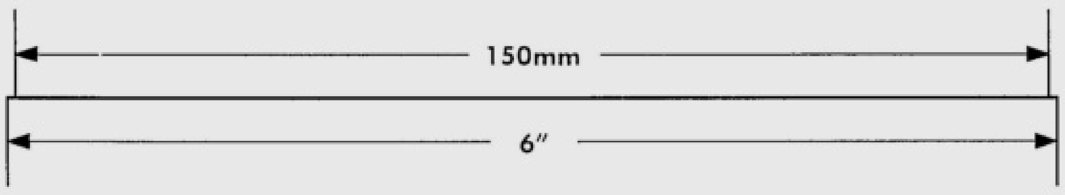

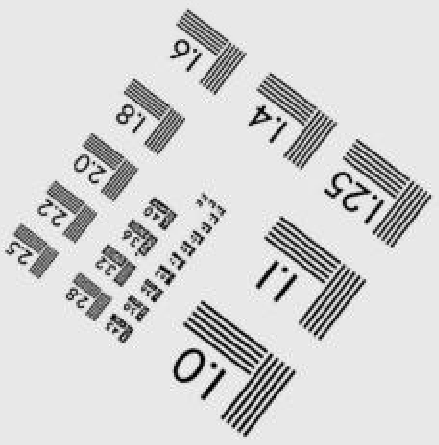
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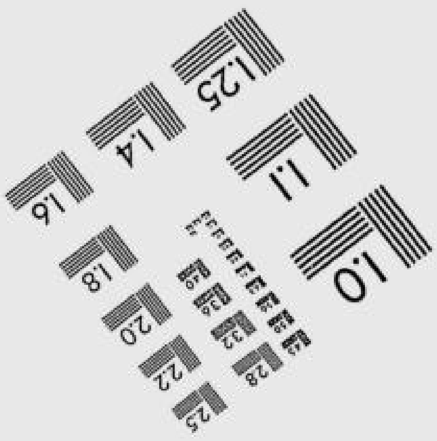
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